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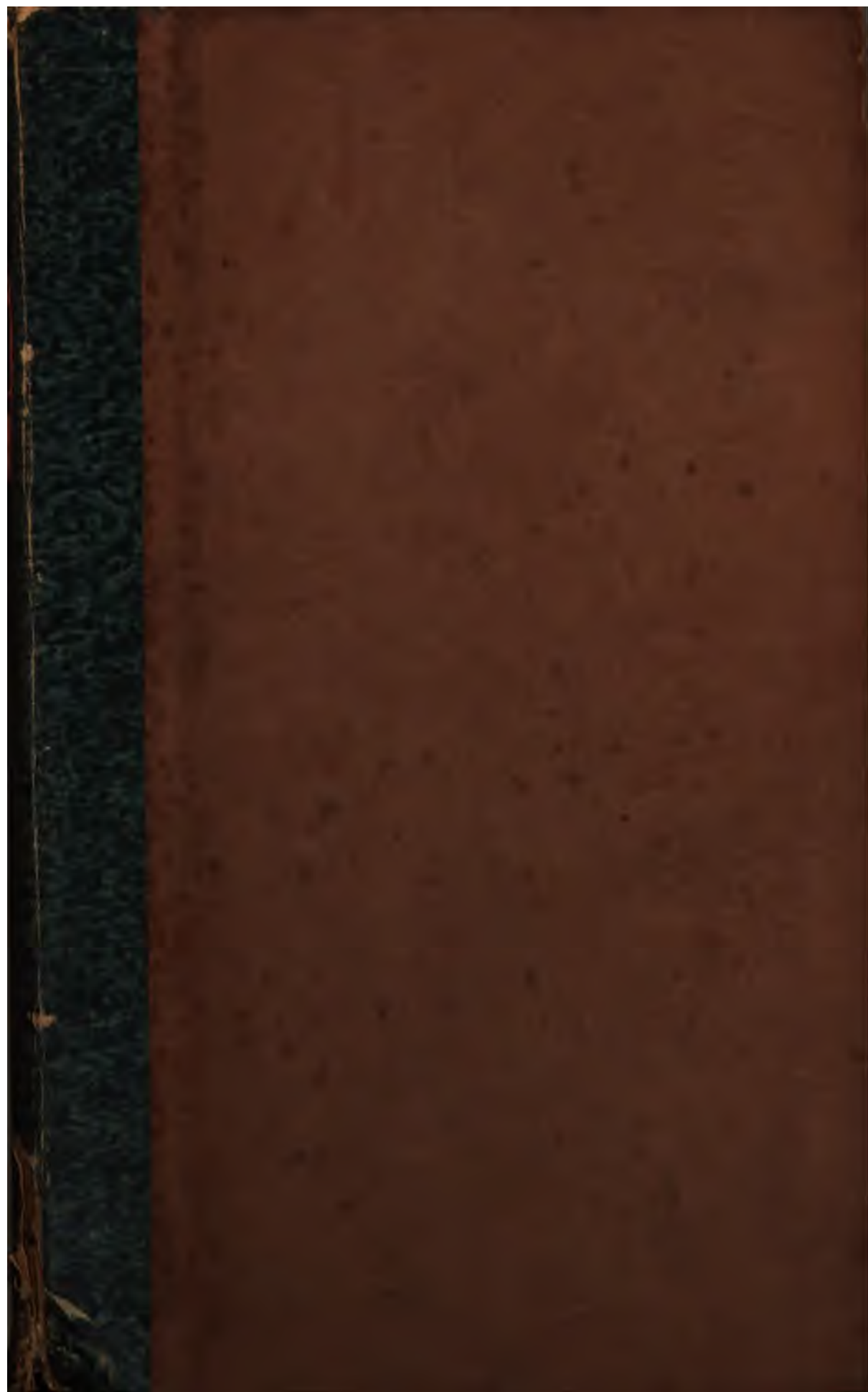
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Per. 1512 d. $\frac{387}{4}$

THE
MONTHLY
GAZETTE OF HEALTH;

OR,
POPULAR MEDICAL, DIETETIC,
AND
General Philosophical Journal.

BY
RICHARD REECE, M.D.
OF LONDON,

AND SEVERAL EMINENT PHYSICIANS, SURGEONS, AND CHEMISTS, IN AMERICA,
THE EAST AND WEST INDIES, AND ON THE CONTINENT OF EUROPE.

VOL. IV.
FOR THE YEAR 1819.

FOURTH EDITION.



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PREFACE

TO THE

FOURTH VOLUME.

FOR the very honourable and extensive Patronage this Work has experienced, the Editors have endeavoured to evince their gratitude by labouring with the greatest diligence to collect important information, connected with its objects; and in this they flatter themselves they have succeeded to the satisfaction of every class of their Readers. In the United Kingdom, the circulation of it has greatly increased since the Editors had the honour to address their Readers on the conclusion of the Third Volume, notwithstanding the regular and irregular Quacks have been active in exerting their ingenuity to prejudice the Public against it, particularly the Traders in Draughts—a traffic which a diffusion of a knowledge of medicine, is not calculated to promote.—The opposition of such men the Editors regard as highly complimentary. The Editors have also the gratification to find that the demand for the Work in France, Germany, Holland, America, and the East and West Indies, have proportionably increased, so that, at this time, with respect to number, and they trust also with respect to the importance of matter, it takes the lead of all the periodical works on Science in this Country.

The present Volume, the Editors flatter themselves, contains an account of many important discoveries and communications of great practical utility. The works—of Dr. Bateman on Typhus Fever, Mr. Mansford on Epilepsy, Mr. La Beaume on Galvanism and the Air-pump Bath, Majendie on Gravel,

Stephenson on morbid irritability of the Eye, and of Dr. Dickinson on the Yellow Fever,—the communications on the Rheumatic Inflammation of the Eye by Mr. Wardrop, on Deafness by Mr. Wright, on the Virtues of Cubebs, the antiseptic Properties of the Pyrolignous Acid, Cases of Small Pox by Mr. Gaitskell, Cases of Dropsy from inflammatory excitement of the Arterial System cured by Bleeding, on the Treatment of Epilepsy, and the Testimonies in favour of the inspissated white juice of the Garden Lettuce, Dr. Hutchinson's Tonic Mixture, on the Treatment of Scirrhus Tumours, the Stramonium in Asthma and Pulmonary Consumption, a Description of a new Cupping-glass, are highly valuable. Dr. De Sanctis's Experiments and original Observations on Galvanism, open a new field for observation and enquiry, that may prove of infinite importance to medicine, particularly in developing more clearly the nature of the galvanic fluid, and an important office of the brain and nerves in the animal economy. Of the Doctor's newly-invented galvanic apparatus, constructed on so simple a plan that the most ignorant may use it, the Editors hope to be enabled to give a description in the Fiftieth Number. The Domestic and Agricultural departments they also flatter themselves are far from being destitute of interest. When the Editors pledged themselves in their Prospectus to give an analysis of all the advertised nostrums, and to descant on their merits, they were fully aware that they were about to attack a nest of hornets. For three years this class bore the exposition of their traffic with a degree of philosophy which the Editors attributed to their conviction of the justness of their comments, and the accuracy of their chemical analyses. The philosophy of this *respectable* part of the community seems to be on the decline.—One proprietor of a patent medicine has summoned up sufficient courage to prosecute the Writer for a libel, and to proceed for damages for the injury *he* has sustained. In the prosecution of this cause, the Editors hope the worthy gentleman will persevere, for he has placed them in the enviable situation of defenders of the public.

The Editors have pleaded a justification, and the question of guilt they hope will be referred to a jury. The law of libel, as laid down by the late Lord Ellenborough, is, in many respects, a very proper one. It was never his Lordship's intention to protect unworthy conduct, or a trade evidently injurious to society, when he brought it forward; nor did the Legislature intend to deter a man from the exposition of impositions which he had detected. Whoever reflects on the truth being a libel, when it tends to render a man ridiculous, as it regards medicine, will find it an improper law, inasmuch as it militates against the best interests and welfare of the community. Opinions in medicine are not like opinions in the other professions, and the trade of remedies is very different to other trades. The opinions of medical writers, and the nostrums of quacks, are fraught with danger to life: thousands have fallen victims to plausible theories, and millions to the false promises of quacks. Hence, the man who speedily and fully acquaints the public with the baneful quality of a nostrum, and the dishonest views of the proprietor, discharges an important duty to his fellow creatures.—Better one should be made the sport of his erroneous opinions and false promises, than thousands should perish. The exposure of regular and irregular Quackery, is the most unpleasant part of the duty of the Editors; they have voluntarily embarked in it, and no threats of prosecutions shall deter them from its execution.

171, *Piccadilly*,
December 28, 1819.

CONTENTS OF THE FOURTH VOLUME.

MEDICINE.

	Page		Page
On Typhus Fever by Dr. Bateman....	1	On the Influence of Religion on the	
Dr. Bent on Small-pox	9	Insane, by Dr. Monro.....	114
Dr. Monro, jun. on Ditto	10	Ditto ditto, by Dr. Tuthill	117
Dr. Leslie on Tic Doloureux	<i>ibid</i>	Remarks on ditto	119
Tape Worm	11	On Dropsy of the Head, by Dr. Veates	122
Inflammatory Excitement of Secreting		On the Properties of the Prussic Acid	127
Membranes, &c.	<i>ibid</i>	On Diseases of the Liver, by Dr. Mills	133
On the Use of Charcoal in Cases of		Successful Treatment of a Case of In-	
Poison by Arsenic	13	continence of Urine, by Dr. John	
Natural Classification of Diseases, by		Maclean	139
Dr. Reid	22	Ditto Cures of Tic Doloureux	140
On Indigestion, by Dr. Hall	25	Ditto of Diabetes.....	<i>ibid</i>
On Croaking of the Bowels, by Dr.		Remedy for Scrofula	<i>ibid</i>
Bradley	29	Ditto for Gravel, by Mr. Brande	<i>ibid</i>
A Case of Loss of Power over the Volun-		A Case of Hydrophobia	150
tary Muscles.....	30	Prescriptions	154
Mr. Rose on Palsy	32	Remarks on the Correspondence be-	
Fatal Effects of Oxalic Acid taken by		tween Mr. Faishorn and his Patient	155
mistake	34	Remarks on Mr. Whitmore's Case of	
Death by excessive Bleeding by Leeches	35	Typhus	157
On Croup	<i>ibid</i>	On a peculiar species of Nervous Head-	
Letter from Rev. Mr. Martyn to Mr.		ache	158
La Beaume on Galvanism	36	Pulmonary Consumption	159
— from Mr. Henry to Mr. La Beaume		Poisoning from Arsenic	160
on Ditto	37	Phosphate of Iron	<i>ibid</i>
Treatment of a Case of Tic Doloureux	38	Remarks on Cow Pox, by Dr. Pew, &c.	164
Efficacy of Prussic Acid in Pulmonary		The medicinal Properties of Cubebs..	174
Consumption	<i>ibid</i>	Remedy for Cramp in the Legs	<i>ibid</i>
Dr. Baillie's Prescription for Morbid		The effects of Galvanism, and the Air-	
Irritation of the Bladder.....	39	Pump Vapour-Bath, by Dr. Blagbo-	
Case of apparent Neglect at St. Bar-		rough and D. Wilson, Esq.	192
tholomew's Hospital	<i>ibid</i>	Cases of secondary Small Pox, with	
On Varioloid Diseases.....	45	Remarks on an Eruption of the	
Of the Rational Treatment of Insanity	52	Skin resembling Chicken Pox, by	
Medical Excursion on the Continent	53	Messrs. Wright and Fosbrook	197
Successful Treatment of Maniacal Epi-		Instructions for the Treatment of Mea-	
lepsy	63	sles	199
Ditto of Typhoid Fever	64	Effects of the Sulphuret of Iron	202
On Bathing, by Sir Arthur Clarke,		Dr. Unwin's Remarks on the Hepatic	
M.D. &c.	65	Doctrines of Disease	212
On the contagious nature of Plague..	71	Remedy for White Gravel	224
Effects of the Galvanic fluid	74	On Dropsy, by Dr. Gregory	229
Effects of Tar Vapor in Pulmonary		Dropsy of the Chest, (Remedy for) ..	233
Consumption	78	Cure of Epilepsy by the application of	
Typhus Fever, (a remedy for)	79	a live Pigeon	<i>ibid</i>
Treatment of Insanity—Remarks on		Watery Head	234
the case of Sir Samuel Romilly	83	Dr. Latham's Letter to Lord Sidmouth	
Remarks on Cow Pox.....	84	on Cow Pox	235
Pulmonary Consumption, (the Effects		Hydrophobia (Remedy for)	238
of Atmospheric Pressure on).....	87	Extract of Malt (Remedy for)	<i>ibid</i>
Cases of General Debility cured.....	89	On Sulphurous Fumigation, by Dr. Hart	250
Uterine Hæmorrhage (Treatment of)	<i>ibid</i>	On the Treatment of Cholera Morbus,	
Measles, (the effects of Cow Pox on)	91	by Dr. Vaughan	253
Palsy, (Dr. Theodore Hart's Remedy		Case of Sciatica cured by Galvanism ..	254
for)	<i>ibid</i>	On Epilepsy, by Mr. Mansford	256
Scrofula, &c. (Notice of a Dispensary		Cases of Small Pox subsequent to Cow	
for the cure of)	<i>ibid</i>	Pox, by Surgeon Gaitskell	260
Colonel Riddle's Powders, (Remarks		Case of Fatal Termination of Cow Pox	261
on, by Mr. Pole)	92	On St. Vitus's Dance, by Dr. Watts ..	263
		On the Prussic Acid	265

CONTENTS.

vii

	Page
Report of Diseases	271
Cases of Deafness cured by Galvanism, by M. La Beaume	279
On Plague	283
Medical Excursion on the Continent ..	286
Case of Lock Jaw cured	289
Remarks on the Origin of Worms ..	290
Case of Iliac Passion successfully Treated	299
Effects of Ground Ivy on the Nervous System	300
Means of ascertaining the State of the Lungs	302
Report of Diseases	304
Remarks on Apoplexy	307
Ditto on Cow Pox	316
Case of Watery Head cured	317
Ditto Hydrophobia	318
Ditto Obstinate Constipation	319
Medical Excursion continued	320
Cure of Dropsy	322
Effects of Oxygene	323
On Cow Pox	324
Treatment of the Hysteric Fits	325
Cases of Poisoning by Arsenic	327
Effects of Peruvian Bark	331
Cases of Dropsy cured by Bleeding ..	348
On the Treatment and Prevention of Yellow Fever	349
A case of Inflammation of the Brain ..	352
Cases of St. Vitus's Dance	361
On Stramonium, by Dr. Ward	362
On the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, by Mr. La Beaume	364
On Hydrophobia	365
New Mode of Treating Epilepsy	368
Remedy for Gravel	<i>ibid</i>
Ditto Cancer	<i>ibid</i>
On the effects of Crying, &c.	369
Remedy for Tape Worm	370

SURGERY.

Extraction of a Stone from the Male Bladder	11
Cure of Aneurism by Pressure	31
Letter on Deafness	43
Second Letter on the same Subject ..	44
Case of Watery Head by an Opera- tion	59
Physiology and Disease of the Organs of Hearing	60
Successful Treatment of Purulent dis- charges from the Ear	69
Experiments on the transfusion of Blood by a Syringe	69
Aneurism of the carotid Artery, &c. ..	73
On a Remedy for Deafness, by Mr. Wright	78
Anatomy of the Ear, (and plate of, announced)	<i>ibid</i>
Excessive discharge of Blood from ex- traction of a Tooth	90
Purulent Inflammation, (Remedy for) ..	<i>ibid</i>

Erysipelatous Inflammation, (Remedy for)	93
Piles, (Remarks on)	<i>ibid</i>
Cure of Scirrhus Enlargement of the Womb	142
Reply to Mr. Wright's Letter on a Remedy for Deafness	157
Mr. Brodie's Case of fatal Loss of Blood on extraction of a Tooth	165
Prosecution of a regular Surgeon for Ignorance	167
Means suggested by Power for accele- rating Labour	179
Case of Phagedænic Ulcer, by Surgeon Fayerman	201
Reply to Mr. Wright on Deafness ..	223
On Weakness of Sight, by Surgeon Stephenson	227
Mr. Wright's Letter to the Committee of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum	235
Stricture	239
Reply to Chemicus on Deafness, by W. Wright, Esq.	252
On Suspended Animation, by Dr. Ste- vens	264
Case of Abscess of the Liver	266
Expeditious Means of exciting Saliva- tion	285
Scirrhus Tumours, (Remedy for) ..	298
Treatment of Wounded Arteries	<i>ibid</i>
Mode of preventing Chilblains	299
On the Preservation of the Teeth, by Professor Hertz	300
Case of Stone in the Bladder	303
Remarks on Stone in the Bladder ..	313
Remedy for Tumefaction of the Gland of the Breast	323
On Topical Bleeding	330
On Inflammation of Veins	331
Rheumatic Inflammation of the Eye ..	356
New Mode of Operating for Wen	360
Case of Scirrhus successfully Treated ..	363
Case of Hairy Tumour	365
Description of a New Cupping Appa- ratus	366

PHARMACY AND CHEMISTRY.

On Galvanism, by Dr. Bostock	6
Ignition of Water	13
A new Vegetable Alkali	15
American National Pharmacopœia ..	<i>ibid</i>
On Galvanism	35
Spontaneous Combustion of the Human Body	42
Sarsaparilla, (Mr. Battley's Account of) ..	91
Directions for making Prussic Acid ..	128
Remarks on Soda Water	141
On the Virtues of Sarsaparilla	142
On the Adulteration of the Saffron Cake, Hartshorn Shavings, &c.	143
Red Particles of the Blood—Anecdote of the Archduke Maximilian of Aus- tria	<i>ibid</i>

Purified Lignic Acid	Page 238
On Galvanism, by Professor Aldini ..	244
Remarks on Professor Aldini's Galvanic Apparatus, by M. La Beaume ..	247
On Mineral Waters, by Dr. Mackenzie ..	260
On Magnesia	266
On Professor Aldini's Galvanic Apparatus, by Dr. De Sanctis	277
Remarks on Galvanism	312
On Galvanism, by Dr. De Sanctis	353

BIOGRAPHY.

Biographical Memoirs, Literary and Critical, of Dr. John Latham	17
Living Biography	48
Memoirs of Dr. Tuthill	49
Memoirs of Sir Walter Farquhar, Bart. M.D.	81
Comparison between the late Sir Walter Farquhar, Bart. and the late Dr. Warren	113
Of Dr. Ainslie	145
A Biographical Sketch of Dr. Ferris ..	177
Of Dr. Curry	209
Of Dr. John Richard Farre	241
Biographical Sketch of Sir Gilbert Blane, Bart. M.D. &c.	273
Biographical Sketch of Dr. Maton ..	305
Ditto of Dr. Meyers	345

QUACKERY.

Quackery, Observations on	47
Arnold's Balsam of Coltsfoot	48
Of the Proceedings of the College of Physicians against Drs. Dick, Adam, Clarke, and others	56
Exposure of Mr. Lynch's Practice on Stricture	109
Messrs. Flood and Co's. Remedy for Gout, &c. (Composition of)	110
Dr. Cundell's Improved Balsam of Honey (ditto)	111
Albin's Chilblain Wash (ditto)	112
Action by a Quack for remuneration for Attendance	169
Mr. Scarlett's Remarks on Quackery ..	171
Composition of Rymer's Cordial and Nervous Tincture	175
Mr. Lynch's Treatment of Stricture ..	206
Composition of the Golden Spirit of Scurvy Grass	207
Ditto Bloom of Ninon	<i>ibid</i>
Composition of Hadfield's Original Tincture	240
On Mr. Lynch's Treatment of Stricture ..	268
On Mr. Thompson's Cheltenham Salts ..	<i>ibid</i>
Composition of Jackson's Hepatic Pills ..	270
Sir William Adams's Ophthalmic Drops ..	296
Irregular Empiricism	<i>ibid</i>

On Water Doctors	Page 333
Composition of Hugh Smith's Pills ..	335

DIET.

Wines	46
Instructions for making cheap Beer and Ale	175
Of the poisonous Property of Tea ..	<i>ibid</i>
On Tea	203
Cider (Substitute for)	239
Means of preserving Meat, &c.	262
Preservation of Meat	292
On Tea	303

MISCELLANEOUS.

On Miss Mac Avoy	42
On the Employment of Youth in Manufactories	73
Abdominal Bandage, (advantage of) ..	78
Chapped Nipples, (Mr. Stedman's Remedy for)	79
A new Process of Embalming	<i>ibid</i>
A new method of making Manure	80
Ditto Beer	<i>ibid</i>
Cheese, (on the Colouring of)	94
Filtration of Water	<i>ibid</i>
Correspondence between Mr. Faithorn and his Patient	95
Drs. Spurzheim and Gall, (on their System of Craniology)	110
Ingredients used in colouring Cheese ..	143
Remarks on a Medical Combination at Brighton	159
Pyroligneous Acid—its Property in preserving Animal Food	160
Poisonous Effects of the Box on Pigs ..	175
Evidences of the existence of a Soul, and a Future State	186
Seeds of the Pumpkin	203
On Bees	<i>ibid</i>
Poisoned Eggs	204
Remedy for Scouring	<i>ibid</i>
Means of destroying the Fly	<i>ibid</i>
Receipts for Purple Enamel	203
On the Beet Root	<i>ibid</i>
Remedy for the Mildew	<i>ibid</i>
Morris v. Mackinnon	215
On Fumigation, by J. Power, Esq.	220
Effects of Lightning	264
On the Female Abdominal Bandages ..	266
On Leeches	267
Means of keeping off Flies	<i>ibid</i>
Ditto of destroying Frogs	<i>ibid</i>
Medical Combination	<i>ibid</i>
Remarks on Mind and Matter	291
The Case of Surgeon Lindsay	294
Means of preserving Dead Game	303
A New Gas-light Apparatus	331
On the Fly in Turnips	332
Ditto Maple Tree	<i>ibid</i>
Ditto Chestnut Tree	<i>ibid</i>
Ditto Cleaning of Bottles	343

THE
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No. 37.]

To JANUARY 1, 1819.

[Vol. IV.]

TYPHUS.—Dr. Bateman, Physician to the public Dispensary, and consulting Physician to the Fever Institution, in London, having directed his attention for a series of years to the phenomena and management of Fever and the Epidemic, generally termed *Typhus*, which has lately prevailed in London and in different parts of the United Kingdom, particularly Dublin and Cork, has thought it his duty on retiring from active practice of the honorary appointment which the Governors of the Fever Institution conferred upon him, while the impressions of recent observations were fresh in his memory, to communicate to the medical profession the results of his experience. The doctor considers the Epidemic Fever of London to be of the same nature as the Pesti-lential Putrid Fevers which committed such dreadful ravages in this country about two centuries ago, and that, for its comparative mildness, we are indebted to the improvements of the moderns in all the arts of life, which conduce to the prevention and mitigation of febrile diseases. The source of the Epidemic he ascribes to a deficiency of nutriment, and conceives that the most copious evidence has demonstrated, that putrid effluvia, closeness of the habitations of the indigent, uncleanness and accumulated filth in the lanes and alleys, are not capable of generating Fever, for, says he, these supposed causes continue *all* seasons, while Epidemic Fever appears but *rarely*. In some crowded cities, indeed, in which *poverty* and *want* prevail more extensively and continually among the lower classes than in London, as in Dublin, Cork, and some of the populous towns of the sister kingdom, the same Fever generally prevails, and in seasons of dearth rages to an extent unknown in this metropolis; for here, in times of scarcity, the subsistence of the *poor* is more effectually provided for, and it remains for years together exempt from Fever.

The Epidemic thus originating from defective nourishment of the body, the Doctor is satisfied is propagated by the morbid exhalations and secretions which accumulate about the patient, and particularly in the bedding and clothing; but to excite the disease even in a person predisposed to it, it must be applied in a concentrated state, for by dilution with *fresh* atmospheric air it is rendered inert. It has been proved on the most satisfactory evidence, that the apartment occupied by the sick may be rendered perfectly innocuous by free ventilation. Even the plague, which is generally considered to be highly contagious, the Doctor is of opinion, is propagated only by close approximation to the diseased. In corroboration of the conclusion of the non-conveyance of contagion to the smallest distance in a *pure* atmosphere, the Doctor adds the following fact, which he has ascertained by sixteen years experience in the London House of Recovery: "that the

body of the diseased, kept neat and clean, is not so liable to impress the taint as his late wearing apparel, dirty linen, or any uncleanness, long kept in that impure state. These last contain a more certain, more concentrated, and more contagious poison than the newly emitted effluvia or excretions from the sick." Heat the Doctor supposes to be the most powerful destroyer of contagion, or the morbid effluvia, in the clothing. Dr. Lind asserts, from his own experience, "that the heat of a *close confined* fire, or of an oven, is a destroying power which no infection whatever can resist."

Whatever differences of opinion may exist as to the presence or absence of inflammation, at the commencement of Fever, the Doctor's long experience has fully satisfied him, "that the recurrence of more or less of *inflammatory excitement*, general and local, in the course of its subsequent progress, is the chief object of apprehension, and the great source of danger; and that the *only* practicable means of obviating this event, or speedily abridging the term of the disease, are such as subdue other inflammatory disorders. The opportunity of administering remedies on the first or second day of Fever, while any chilliness continues, and before some degree of excitement has begun, rarely occurs in a public hospital; but the *prompt* evacuation of the stomach and bowels should, in the Doctor's opinion, be the first expedient under *all* circumstances. A scruple of Ipecacuan he has found the best emetic. If a grain of emetic tartar be added to it, it will also act as an aperient; but as this frequently acts with violence, the Doctor thinks "it better to follow up the Ipecacuan by five grains of Calomel with six or eight of Jalap." In some young persons, with a mild attack, he has seen these prompt evacuations speedily to reduce the Fever. An aperient, unless preceded by an emetic, he found to produce little or no beneficial effect. When heat and dryness of the skin have succeeded the chills, the pulse has become quick, and beats with a smarter stroke, and the headache and restlessness have increased, indicating the stage of excitement, by more active measures the duration of the disease may be shortened, more especially if resorted to on the third, fourth, fifth, or even on the sixth day. Of these the extraction of blood and cold affusion are the principal. The application of cold water, by means of a sponge, the Doctor has found more beneficial than by the shower-bath or the bucket, in all periods of the disease, but more signally so within the first week. Whenever the skin is dry and hotter than natural, the face, arms, and trunk may be sponged with cold water (to which vinegar may be added), with considerable advantage. The Doctor found this practice speedily to reduce the temperature of the body, and to be extremely grateful to the sensations of the patient (relieving his thirst and abating the restlessness, &c.), and to be frequently followed by a quiet slumber and gentle perspiration. The morbid heat and irritation often returns, but a repetition of the sponging is followed by the same beneficial changes, and may be resorted to according to the rule, whenever the skin is hot and dry. With respect to bleeding, the Doctor observes, "I believe there are few Physicians who, like myself, commenced their professional career impressed with the doctrines that prevailed in the schools at the close of the past century, in which the terror of debility was

certainly predominant, who will not acknowledge that subsequent practice has been a continued struggle between the prejudices of education and the staring conviction of opposing facts, which were continually forcing themselves on their observation; and that they have more especially been compelled to a gradual but material change in their views respecting the use of the lancet, not only in Fever but other diseases." The Doctor is fully "conscious of the extent to which his own practice has been cramped by this prejudice, and of the reluctance with which he had admitted the evidence of his senses, till frequent repetitions, and the sanction of other authorities, had rendered it irresistible." His testimony on this point cannot therefore be deemed the result of haste or temerity. Few opportunities occurred among the patients of the House of Recovery of employing this remedy before the sixth day, but several patients had been bled previous to admission, *in all of whom the head-ache had been either removed or greatly relieved by the loss of blood*; and though the fever did not immediately terminate, it was always evidently abridged in its duration, and afterwards exhibited no unfavourable symptoms. He lately witnessed the complete and immediate extinction of the fever in two cases (not in the House of Recovery) by a single blood-letting. In the one it was resorted to on the fourth, and the other on the fifth day. The head in both was considerably affected with threatening delirium, but the pain and intellectual disturbance were instantaneously removed, and the patients left their beds in two days. With respect to the circumstances under which bleeding may be proper, the Doctor observes, "it seems to me that, if on the third or fourth day the head-ache is acute; or if, without severe head-ache, there is much watchfulness, a hurry of thought, and rapidity of speech, and an unusual sensibility to light, especially if the pulse be 110 or 120, such symptoms mark a condition of the brain bordering on inflammatory action, and that blood-letting is the most prompt and effectual mode of anticipating the morbid changes which are likely to follow, and which sometimes come on so suddenly as to inflict an irreparable injury in that delicate organ." This often occurs even by the ninth or tenth day, or sooner; and it too often happens that no alarm is taken till this unconquerable evil is already produced. A few leeches, or a small cupping, are frequently resorted to under these circumstances; but the Doctor has often witnessed the partial relief which they produced, and their failure, even when used early, to prevent the subsequent bad symptoms, and still more entirely to arrest them when they had begun. Very little observation of the comparative efficacy of the extraction of even a small quantity of blood when taken freely, and at once from a well-opened vein, and by its slow and more partial exudation from the bites of leeches, or under the cupping-glass, will be sufficient to convince any practitioner of the great and decided superiority of the former.

Four ounces of blood taken from a large orifice in the arm, the Doctor has found to produce more essential benefit, than twice the quantity dribbling away after either of these operations. If the *early* symptoms should not indicate a necessity of bleeding, the Doctor recommends the same principle to be followed in a minor degree. No appearance of languor or debility should induce even a disposition to

swerve from a steady pursuit of a low diet and antiphlogistic medicines, because the physical energies of the patient cannot, in that stage, have been materially reduced, or even partially exhausted. If the patient be of a plethoric habit, or even if the sanguiferous system be not evidently overloaded, bleedings, in our opinion, should precede the exhibition of an emetic, for the determination of blood to the head, which takes place during the operation of an emetic, not unfrequently disturbs the functions of the brain, and thus accelerates the stage of excitement. After bleeding, we have frequently found vomiting, excited by emetic Tartar and Ipecacuan, to remove every symptom of the disease. The extraction of blood from the temporal artery we have also found to succeed better than from a vein of the arm.

The Doctor recommends the bowels to be regularly evacuated, on every alternate day, by means of calomel, with a little jalap, rhubarb, or Epsom salt. The saline mixture, with two drachms of Mindererus's spirit, the Doctor has found to operate gently as an aperient, and that he thinks sufficient to constitute the principal medical treatment, unless some pressing symptom requires attention. The exhibition of camphor, ethereal spirits, aromatic confection, and every description of cordial, or tonic medicines, and more particularly Peruvian bark, he condemns, whatever the supposed indications of debility may be. Such symptoms he has uniformly found to be aggravated by those remedies, by their augmenting the degree of excitement on which they depend.

The same cooling treatment he recommends to be pursued in all that relates to the domestic management of the patient, to the state of his apartment and bed, and to the *kind* and *quantity* of drink and nutriment. It is also of importance to maintain the purity and coolness of the air of the room, for which purposes, a free ventilation is proper. The latter objects are materially promoted by removing the curtains of the bed, and by lightly covering the patient; indeed, the bed-clothes should be reduced as much as possible consistent with the feelings of the patient, which, in common, is a good guide for its regulation. The Doctor deprecates the common practice of introducing camphor, *aromatic vinegar*, and other fragrant substances, or odoriferous fumigations, into the patient's room, they having, as he conceives, not the smallest influence in destroying contagious or offensive effluvia. Aromatic substances, as we have noticed in a former Number, may cover offensive effluvia, but can have no salutary effect in rendering them inert; but *vinegar*, we are satisfied, acts *chemically* on the matter of contagion, so as to render it innocent. During winter, the Doctor recommends the drink to be taken *cool*, and in summer *cold*. In the latter season he has found *ice*, or *iced fluids*, to be very palatable, and he has allowed them to be freely used in the house of recovery. To rennet-whey he is also partial, because it is both pleasant and nutritious, the latter of which is of importance, the whole nourishment during the period of excitement being confined to fluids. Gruel, barley-water, mild preparations of arrow-root, sago, rice with milk, strawberries, and the mild acid fruits, he says should constitute the whole diet, excluding even the *animal* broths and jellies till some indication of convalescence appears. The use of

opiates during the first and second stages of the disease, he has found decidedly injurious, by disturbing the brain, and constipating the bowels; but it does not appear that he has given the henbane (which has lately been much recommended in this fever) a trial. This remedy does not constipate the bowels, and, by allaying morbid irritation, we have found it very beneficial even in the first stage of the disease, after the use of the lancet, and operation of an emetic. The application of cloths dipped in cold water, with a little ether, to the shaven scalp, as recommended by us in an early Number, he has found very beneficial. He speaks also in decided terms of the salutary effects of a blister, applied (under any circumstance of a disturbance of the brain) to the upper part of the nape of the neck, which he prefers to the scalp.

In the later period of fever, when the symptoms, clearly mark its character and danger, are apparent, which occur about the ninth or tenth day, the Doctor recommends the cooling and evacuating treatment to be continued. Even when the disturbance of the brain is inconsiderable, not exceeding occasional confusion on waking, or slight wanderings in the night, yet, if it be rather on the increase, and if the pulse continue frequent, at more than 120, with the slightest sharpness in its feeble stroke, the tongue become parched and brownish and cannot be *steadily* protruded, and if the strength be manifestly reduced, the voice feeble, and the skin rather dry, appearances *usually* considered as indicative of lowness and failing of powers, still the Doctor does not hesitate to assert, that this condition is to be relieved by moderate evacuations, and will be infallibly aggravated and carried on into picking of the bed-clothes, twitching of the tendons, muttering, and ultimately to death, by cordial and tonic treatment, unless its effects are counteracted by some extraordinary effort of the system. The apparent debility being the result of an oppressing cause, which, being removed, the system recovers by its own power, and that this cause is a state approximating to inflammation of the brain, the condition of its membranes after death, and the manifest benefit of moderate evacuations, *local* or *general*, which the Doctor has witnessed, prove beyond dispute. There is no condition of fever whatever with *one* exception (a state of collapse in old subjects), in which the Doctor has not found large potations of wine, and the stronger liquors *extremely* deleterious; nor does he conceive that twitchings of the tendons, picking of the bed-clothes, and a tremulous tongue, are *essentially* the concomitants of debility, or by any means to indicate the use of a cordial or tonic. They are distinctly, he conceives, symptomatic of irritation of the brain. Whether *general* bleeding may be *safely* employed or repeated at this period of the disease, when the physical powers are necessarily exhausted from the want of sleep and nourishment, is a question which his experience will not allow him to decide, having never ventured on it under such circumstances; but he has seen such constant benefit from the extraction of blood by means of leeches to the temples, and from the application of a blister to the nape of the neck, that he has trusted principally to them.

On the means of prevention, or of checking the progress of the fever, we find nothing new. Those on which he places most depend-

ance we have noticed in some of our early Numbers, as nitrous fumigation, the oxymuriatic acid, &c.

In giving the history, &c. of this epidemic, Dr. Bateman, highly to his credit, has avoided all hypothetical speculations and controversial discussions, and, like the man of real science, desirous to communicate useful information for the benefit of the community, has confined his attention to points of real *practical* importance,—to the symptoms and their changes, to the operation of the remedies which he employed, and to the appearances of organic derangement it has left.

The method of treating a disease, which is the grand object of medical investigation, requires no extended detail or elaborate elucidation. The progress in improvements, which a judicious practitioner will probably effect, will be to simplify his plans, to diminish rather than to add to the number of his remedies, and to reduce the indications of cure to a few obvious principles. Fever is a disease which particularly admits of this simplification of treatment, the indications being less obscure than in many other diseases, and the operation of remedies clear, and often effective.

Nearly all the medical works that have lately issued from the press, are entitled *Practical*, to induce the public to suppose that they detail the results of the authors' *practice* in the diseases on which they treat. Scarcely one besides Dr. Bateman's Treatise is justly entitled to that distinction. If medical writers were to follow Dr. Bateman's example, by honestly detailing the results of their observations and practice, medicine would soon be placed on so respectable a foundation as to secure the entire confidence of the public, a confidence which alone is necessary to abolish for ever the disgraceful and dangerous trade of quackery.

Our readers will find, on referring to the observations we have occasionally made on the treatment, &c. of the fever which has lately prevailed in London, that we differ in opinion with Dr. Bateman only on the contagious nature of the disease, a point on which we are not settled. It is decidedly for the benefit of the public, that Dr. Bateman's opinion that it is contagious, should generally prevail, because it inculcates the propriety of attending to cleanliness and ventilation, precautions which not only greatly contribute to the recovery of the patients, but secure others against the malady.

GALVANISM.—The commendations the article on Galvanism in Dr. Brewster's *Encyclopædia* received from those who were competent to estimate its merits, have induced the writer of it (Dr. Bostock, of London) to reprint it with such additions and corrections, which further experience and observations have enabled him to make. This highly interesting branch of natural philosophy may be defined, a series of electrical phenomena, in which the electricity is developed without friction, and where a chemical action evidently takes place between some of the articles that are employed. Dr. Bostock has arranged the subject into two divisions, the first comprehends an historical account of the discoveries that have been successively made from the time Galvani first published the results of his experiments: and the second, the principal theories and hypotheses that have appeared in explanation of its phenomena. With respect to the essential

difference between galvanism and electricity, a subject which still occupies much of the attention of the philosophical world, Dr. Bostock conceives it to be ascertained, that in the production of the former a chemical action takes place, which is not necessary in the latter: we must therefore next inquire, in what way this chemical change of the substances impart to the electricity that particular state or modification which is styled *galvanic*. With regard to the nature of this change, experimentalists generally agree: as to the metals it consists, in the oxidation of that metal which possesses the strongest attraction for oxygen: and with respect to the fluid interposed between the metals, it consists in its decomposition, the oxygenous part being attracted to the most oxidable metal, and the alkaline to that which is the least oxidable. Although there are various galvanic combinations into which only one metal enters, or even some entirely without metals, yet as the most powerful and complete circle is that which consists of two metals with a fluid interposed, the Doctor confines his illustration to this form of apparatus. He considers it as proved by a number of experiments, which have been stated in the first part of this article, that electricity, as it is evolved by the different galvanic combinations, always exist in what has been termed a *state of low intensity*: and that to whatever extent the apparatus is increased, and however powerfully it acts, still the intensity is but little augmented. It is, however, a doubtful point of theory upon what the *intensity* of electricity depends, or in what it precisely consists. Some writers have ascribed it to a greater or less concentration of the fluid; some to a difference in the velocity of its motion or in the strength of its affinity to the surrounding bodies; and others to its containing a greater or less portion of caloric. For the present we must rest satisfied by admitting the fact of the low intensity, as manifested by the phenomena without being able to explain its cause. The Doctor next proceeds to inquire, whether there be any circumstances in the *different methods* of exciting or producing electricity by the *machine* or the *pile* respectively, which should cause the first to develop the fluid in a higher, and the latter in a lower state of intensity.

When we employ the machine, the electricity that we procure appears to be in a highly elastic state, its particles are strongly repulsive of each other, and at the same time not disposed to enter into a permanent union with other bodies. The galvanic electricity which we procure from the pile is more readily united to other bodies, and has a tendency to form new combinations with them, which is so powerful as to counteract some of the strongest chemical affinities. At the same time, it exhibits less of what may be called mechanical action: its particles are less repulsive of each other; its motions appear less rapid; it causes less commotion in its passage from one body to another; and although its ultimate effects are more powerful, it seems to act with less violence. The one may be compared to a small quantity of an agent highly concentrated; the other to a larger quantity, but in a state of greater dilution. The phenomena of electricity, as excited by the common machine, depend upon the attraction and repulsion of the electric fluid,

and its passage from one body to another; while the most important actions of galvanic electricity result from the chemical changes that it produces in the composition of bodies. The excitation of common electricity is not necessarily attended with any *permanent* alteration in the state of the substances that are employed in producing it. It is usually developed by the mechanical aid of friction; and the same apparatus may continue to be employed for an indefinite length of time. Friction, on the contrary, has no effect in the production of galvanic electricity; it requires a chemical change in some part of the apparatus; and the individual parts which have been employed in generating it acquire new properties, and are incapable of any further galvanic action.

On the difference existing between galvanism and electricity, Mr. Allan in a recent communication observes, "in electricity we contrive by mechanical means to collect the loose and uncombined quantity from the earth and surrounding medium, and this we do in circumstances in which it has nothing to act upon, as free from moisture of any kind as possible; in fact, from every thing readily soluble in heat or in this power. I would therefore (he says), define electricity to be the object of science, which treats of the mechanical and natural means of separating this grand agent from some of its combinations, and of ascertaining its actions in this state."

"In galvanism, on the other hand, this solvent power, this electric fire is produced in circumstances in which it has *substances* to act upon; substances which are most readily dissolved in it; substances, in fact, which seem to form the grand medium between this power and *passive substances*, and which are partially dissolved in it. And hence I define galvanism as the electric fire, or *grand agent*, only *partially* separated from its combinations; by which I refer principally to oxygen and hydrogen." After illustrating this principle, by referring to the circumstances in which the chemical agency of galvanism appears more conspicuous than that of electricity, he adds, "thus we perceive, that, when the *grand agent of nature* is *more perfectly* separated from its combinations, it is electricity; when partially separated, galvanism." It may be said that many of the observations and conclusions both of Dr. Bostock and Mr. Allan are founded upon hypothesis: it must, however, be allowed that their hypotheses are very plausible and approaching near to facts. Compared to the reasoning of former times, when science, like the opinions of some of the physicians of the present day, (dealers in abstractions and inventions) was mere flight of fancy, they are satisfactory.

On the medicinal effects of galvanism the Doctor is very concise, probably in consequence of not having given it a sufficient trial. From its peculiar action on the nervous system, or on the muscles of a limb when applied to the principal nerve, he did expect that much benefit would have been derived from it in paralytic and other nervous affections, and from some opinions of the nature of spasmodic asthma lately published by Dr. Philip of Worcester, and results of his experiments, he has still reason to hope that galvanism will be found a powerful agent in the cure of diseases. The practitioner who is so far capable of thinking for him as to look for the cause of a disease beyond the stomach and

liver, and is acquainted with the importance of the nervous system in the animal economy, that the muscles derive their power of acting, the different organs of the chest and abdomen of performing their functions from it, will be satisfied that a fluid, capable of invigorating this system, and thereby increasing the temperature of the body, and consequently, its vitality, cannot but prove a most powerful auxiliary to medicine in cases of direct debility. Mr. La Beaume, to whom we are indebted for many valuable communications on the medicinal effects of galvanism, is now giving it an extensive trial in this metropolis, in diseases originating in general and local debility of the nervous system, and from the results which we have witnessed, we are inclined to prognosticate that it will supersede the use of mercury in affections of the stomach, &c. dependant on nervous debility.

In our next number we intend to give a few cases to illustrate the beneficial effects of this new practice.

SMALL-POX.—Dr. Bent of Derby, has published an account of an eruptive disease which, since the spring of 1816, has been very general in that county, which he has distinguished by the name of *Epidemic Varioloid Disease*. He contends that it is not the genuine small-pox. That it differs from chicken-pox in duration, severity, and consequences. That it is not small-pox modified by the influence of cow-pox, because the symptoms are the same in those who have not had the cow-pox, as in those who have, and that cow-pox has an imperfect, if any, influence in arresting it, and that in several instances the disease has attacked children who had recently recovered from cow-pox.—Notwithstanding his declaration, that the disease is not small-pox modified by cow-pox, this accurate observer of the distinguishing characters of diseases, very consistently inquires, “May not the contagion of small-pox, after having been introduced into the system of an individual, or a succession of individuals who are under the protection of cow-pox, have its qualities so changed as to allow of its propagating a disease in others free from cow-pox influence, similar to that by which it was itself produced?” If this conjecture should prove well founded, the Doctor observes, the prevailing disease may be deemed a new variety of small-pox!—He notices what he considers to be a very curious circumstance which occurred at the village of Spondon, where the great part of the children and young people have been affected with this epidemic varioloid disease, viz. “that the family of a most respectable surgeon residing there (12 or 13 in number), who have been exposed to the contagion of this supposed new disease in every possible way, and yet have not one of them been affected with it, and that he has in consequence been charged by the vulgar with having inoculated their families with bad matter, at the same time he procured good for his own.”

A correspondent at Derby, on whose integrity and judgment full reliance may be placed, informs us, that this supposed new disease, this epidemic varioloid of Dr. Bent, is small-pox modified by cow-pox influence, and that it differs in no respect to the cases of small-pox, subsequent to cow-pox, which have occurred in London and different parts of the country; that genuine small-pox, with all its characters, has been produced by inoculation with the matter taken from a pus-

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tude of this supposed *new* disease, one instance of which we have had an opportunity of witnessing, and that some cases have occurred in which the eruption did not advance to suppuration in subjects who had not been vaccinated, but those cases of mildness were as common anterior, as they have been subsequent, to the introduction of vaccination. He adds, that the effluvia from the lungs and body of those affected with this *supposed new* disease, possess the same odour as that attendant on genuine small-pox, which has ever been considered by professional men of experience to distinguish small-pox from any other eruptive disease: a circumstance which Dr. Bent has not thought proper to notice!!—The case is, Dr. Bent has been so warm an advocate for vaccination that he has blindly opposed every fact that had a tendency to shake the confidence of the public in its preventive powers. The Doctor's idea, that the eruption after the cow-pox, is a *new* disease, and consequently not affecting the reputation of cow-pox as a preventative of small-pox, has been hailed as a most important discovery by the *interested* supporters of cow-pox, who flatter themselves that it may keep it alive a few years longer. So numerous are the cases of small-pox after cow-pox, that have occurred in every village in this country, that we believe there is not a respectable practitioner in it who will pronounce it to be a certain preventive against small-pox contagion. Even Dr. Bent himself, after defending it against stubborn facts, admits that he has been much astonished at the results of *recent* observations! Our correspondent at the Hague informs us, that small-pox has raged in that city and other places in Holland with unusual violence, and that cow-pox has secured very few from its ravages. The reports we have received from Italy and Germany are, on the contrary, highly in favour of vaccination, although the matter by which the disease is kept up in those countries, as well as in Holland, was originally obtained from England. To what circumstance, then, are its different effects to be attributed? We are in the same situation as the surgeon at Spondon, having a large family who have gone through vaccination, and, although fifteen years have elapsed since some received it, they have all resisted small-pox infection, exposed as they have been repeatedly to it. A few who were vaccinated with the *same* matter have recently been affected with small-pox.

Doctor Monro, jun. of Edinburgh, has lately published some observations on small-pox and cow-pox, in which he endeavours to prove, that the preventive powers of the latter do not wear out. In order that the public may enjoy all the advantages of the cow-pox, he proposes that the legislature should impose a law to enforce the *universal* adoption of cow-pox, in which case he thinks that small-pox would *die away* for want of subjects for its propagation! The opinion and suggestions of a physician who, as a practitioner, is scarcely known in the city in which he resides, and consequently, has had no opportunity of ascertaining the real merits of vaccination, can have little, if any, influence on the minds of the thinking part of the medical profession.

TIC DOULOUREUX.—Doctor Leslie of Pontesford, in Shropshire, in a recent communication states, that during a residence of ten years in India and Persia, he had many opportunities of seeing this

disease in its worst state; it being very prevalent among the natives of those countries. In such cases he always prescribed prepared calomel and opium (two grains of the former and half a grain of the latter three times a-day in the form of a pill) generally with success. After the mouth became slightly affected, he seldom observed the disease to continue; but in most cases relief was obtained before six doses were taken. The Doctor adds, that since he has resided in this country he has had recourse to the same practice in several cases with similar results. He notices one case that had resisted other remedies, which he effectually cured by this treatment. Mercury without opium has had a very fair trial in this disease in London, and when it has affected the mouth, the sufferings of the patients were uniformly aggravated, a consequence which we suspect the addition of opium will not prevent.

EXTRACTION OF A STONE FROM THE MALE BLADDER.—Dr. Calvin Conant, an American physician, has published a case in which he succeeded in extracting a stone from the male bladder by a method entirely new. The patient was only fifteen years of age; he had for a long time suffered frequent suppression of urine, in consequence of the pressure of a stone on the internal aperture of the prostate gland. Dr. C. furnished himself with a very fine silver-wire about twenty inches long, made elastic by being frequently drawn through a wire plate without being annealed. He then drilled two holes through the point of a catheter, upon the convex part, about one eighth of an inch asunder, through which the ends of the wire passed, bringing them out at the end of the catheter. The ends of the wire graduated into spaces of a quarter of an inch each, by which he could judge of the size, and in some degree of the form of the stone. Having introduced the catheter, and enlooped the stone, which was done with little difficulty, he examined the scale, and found one inch and a quarter of the wire was taken up in surrounding it. The situation of it was changed until it was found that it enclosed in such a manner as to occupy the greatest length of loop, which was one inch and seven-eighths. Having drawn the ends of the wire very tight, to keep the stone firmly enclosed in the loop, Dr. C. proceeded with gentle and varied motion to draw it through the urethra, which he accomplished with little difficulty or pain. No unpleasant symptom followed the operation.

TAPE WORM.—Surgeon Hartle, of the General Hospital of Antigua, has exhibited the oil of turpentine in several cases of tape worm with complete success. In two cases he ordered a dose of two ounces (undiluted) to be administered, which, he says, was not followed by any inconvenience. The patients were private soldiers, who had been in the habit of taking rum to a considerable extent, and could therefore bear a strong dose of a stimulant. Mr. Hartle observes, that he found a large dose to pass through the intestines more quickly, and less apt to excite irritation in the urinary passages than a small one.

INFLAMMATORY EXCITEMENT OF SECRETING MEMBRANES, &c.—Dr. Rousset, an Italian physician, informs us that he had administered the distilled water of the cortical part of the bitter

almond with the most decided advantage in cases of inflammatory excitement of secreting surfaces, particularly of the windpipe, bronchial ramifications, the bladder and urethra, and in many irritative affections of the viscera, combined with such articles which attendant symptoms and state of constitution indicated.

For inflammatory excitement of the windpipe and bronchial ramification, pulmonary consumption, and whooping cough, he generally employs the following form :

Take of Distilled Water of the Bitter Almond	-	7 ounces
Mucilage of Gum Arabic	- - -	2 ounces
Syrup of the Marshmallow Root	- - -	6 drachms
Ipecacuan Wine	- - - - -	2 drachms

Three table-spoonsful to be taken three or four times a-day.

In cases of spasmodic asthma and chronic cough, he combines it with an expectorant, as the following mixture :

Take of Gum Ammoniac	- - - -	1½ drachm
Distilled Water of the Bitter Almond	-	7 ounces
Syrup of Tolu	- - - -	¼ an ounce

Mix.—Three table-spoonsful to be taken three times a-day.

For irritative affections of the kidneys, bladder, urethra, and vagina, he recommends the following composition :

Take of Distilled Water of the Bitter Almond	-	7 ounces
Compound Tragacanth Powder	- -	3 drachms

Mix.—Two or three table-spoonsful to be taken three or four times a-day.

In cases of epilepsy and Saint Vitus's dance, he has frequently administered this water with the most beneficial effects, combined with Peruvian bark, in the following proportions :

Take of Powdered Peruvian Bark (pale)	- - -	4 drachms
Distilled Water of the Bitter Almond	-	7 ounces

Mix.—Three table-spoonsful to be taken three times a-day.

The Doctor adds, that he has also successfully employed this water as an external application for inflammatory or super-irritative affections of the skin, after alterative lotions and ointments had totally failed. In cases of roughness or irritability of the skin, inflammatory pimples and preternatural redness, he recommends the water to be used instead of spring or soft water as a common wash. The distilled water of the cortical part of the bitter almond containing a portion of the prussic acid, possesses no doubt the power of subduing morbid excitement of nerves far beyond that of opium or any of the soporific preparations of the pharmacopœia, and therefore may be advantageously employed in conjunction with other remedies in a variety of irritative diseases attended with inflammatory action. We have lately witnessed the beneficial effects of the ointment of the prussiate of mercury (noticed in our 35th Number) in several chronic irritative diseases of the skin, scald head, and obstinate chilblains, and we are now employing the prussic acid with every prospect of success in a case of *tic douloureux*. An Italian physician residing in London informs us that the distilled water of the bitter almond has been long held in great estimation by the most eminent physicians of Italy, as an anti-irritant, and that it is very generally employed by the ladies as a cosmetic.

ARSENIC.—In an early number we have spoken of the powers of charcoal in counteracting the poisonous quality of this mineral when taken into the stomach.

Mr. Tilloch has lately published a case of a gentleman, who by mistake had swallowed a considerable quantity of arseniate of potash, in which the exhibition of finely powdered charcoal succeeded in rendering this potent poison inert. Twenty-five grains of white vitriol were first administered with the view of exciting vomiting. Slight sickness being only produced, the medical attendant continued to give, at short intervals, twelve grains more with half an ounce of powdered charcoal suspended in a tea-cup of water. No sickness however followed, the sense of heat and pricking of which the patient had complained ceased, and the pulse became regular. The mixture of charcoal and water in the dose of a table-spoonful every fifteen minutes, and an ounce of castor-oil was also administered to open the bowels. After the operation of the castor-oil, he found himself free from any unpleasant sensation in the stomach, thirst or fever, and was afterwards soon able to attend to his ordinary business. On this case the medical attendant makes the following remarks.

That the charcoal was the only agent in counteracting the effects of the poison, and was the cause, together with the torpor of the stomach, of his not puking from 37 grains of white vitriol.

That the dose of vitriol retained in the system must have produced an uncommon paroxysm of thirst, had it not been for the exhibition of charcoal; and therefore that all metallic oxides must be inert, when given with this medicine.

That with a view of inverting the action of the stomach, vegetable emetics, and not mineral, should be resorted to, such as oxymel of squilla, ipecacuanha, apocynum, androsæmifolium, lycopodium, selago, and, above all, the distilled water of ranunculus flammula, the operation of which is said by Dr. Withering (a respectable writer) to be immediate.

Note.—There are two varieties of *r. flammula*, but both frequent the same soil, and consequently possess the same properties. The virtues of this plant (*r. f.*) ought to be investigated; the sensible qualities are such as deserve attention; and the name of Dr. Withering ought to be sufficient to give it a place in the *materia medica*.

IGNITION OF WATER.—An apparatus called the American Water Burner has been invented by Mr. Morcy, of New Hampshire, who, after making many experiments, and employing various combustible substances, as tar, resin, oil, &c. to mix with the steam, has brought his apparatus to perfection. The construction is very simple: tar is intimately mixed with steam or vapour of water, and made to issue, with a force proportional to the pressure of the steam, from a small orifice, like that in the jet of a blow-pipe, and is there fired. The flame, although the combustible substances issue from so small an orifice, is as large as that of a common smith's forge, and is accompanied with smoke: when this flame is directed against the bricks in the back of a fire-place, they soon become heated to redness: if iron or steel filings be thrown into the flame, they burn with a sparkling brilliancy, similar to iron wire in oxygen gas.

A few experiments have been made to ascertain the effect of steam on burning bodies, and to learn whether it probably suffered decomposition when issuing, mixed with tar, from the jet of the water-burner.

If a jet of steam, issuing from a small aperture, be thrown upon burning coal, its brightness is increased, if it be held at the distance of four or five inches from the pipe through which the steam passes; but if it be held nearer, the coal is extinguished, a circular black spot first appearing where the steam is thrown upon it. The steam does not appear to be decomposed in this experiment: the increased brightness of the coal is probably occasioned by a current of atmospheric air produced by the steam.

If the wick of a common oil lamp be raised so as to give off large columns of smoke, and a jet of steam be thrown into the flame, its brightness is a little increased, and no smoke is thrown off.

If spirits of turpentine be made to burn on a wick, the light produced is dull and reddish, and a large quantity of thick smoke is given off; but, if a jet of steam be thrown into the flame, its brightness is much increased; and if the experiment be carefully conducted, the smoke entirely disappears.

If vapour of spirits of turpentine be made to issue from a small orifice, and inflamed, it burns, giving off large quantities of smoke; but if a jet of steam be made to unite with the vapour, the smoke entirely disappears. The same effect takes place if the vapour of spirits of turpentine and of water be made to issue together from the same orifice; hence the disappearing of the smoke cannot be supposed to depend on a current of atmospheric air.

If the flame of a spirit-lamp be brought in contact with a jet of steam, it disappears, and is extinguished at the points of contact, precisely as when exposed to strong blasts of air.

Masses of iron of various sizes, and heated to various degrees from redness to bright whiteness, were exposed to a jet of steam; no flame appeared, as was expected, but the iron was more rapidly oxidated where the steam came in contact with it than in other parts. It is probable, if the water suffered decomposition in this experiment, and if the hydrogen was inflamed, its flame might not be observed when contrasted with the heated iron, a body so much more luminous.

The operation of the water-burner, then, appears to be simply this:—Tar, minutely divided, and intimately mixed with steam, is inflamed; the heat of the flame, aided by the affinity for oxygen of that portion of carbon which would otherwise pass off in smoke, decomposes the water, and the carbon and oxygen unite; the hydrogen of the water, and probably of the tar, expand on all sides (and hence the flame is very large) to meet the atmospheric oxygen; water is recomposed, and passes off in steam; a degree of heat is produced, no doubt, greater than that which is produced by the combustion of the tar alone; and this heat is equal to that evolved by the combustion of a quantity of carbon which would otherwise form smoke.

This invention Mr. Tillock supposes may be found very useful in steam-boat navigation. Probably a saving of heat would be produced by considering the products of this combustion, which might be effected to a certain degree by an apparatus of simple combustion. To our

readers who are not acquainted with the composition of water, the idea of burning it will appear very ridiculous. A chemist unacquainted with the effects of water on fire, would from its component parts (inflammable and vital air) suppose explosion to follow an application of fire to it, and that instead of extinguishing a fire it would render it more furious. By means of galvanic fluid, water may be decomposed so as to burn with the same advantage as oil; and we have no doubt that a more ready method of burning it will be discovered, so that we may yet meet with people capable of setting the Thames on fire.

A NEW VEGETABLE ALKALI.—M. M. Pelletier and Caven-ton, on analysing the vomic nut and Saint Ignace's bean, have collected the substance which acts so powerfully on the animal economy; and which was supposed to be, by some late writers, the prussic acid. These able chemists represent it to be white, crystalline, and very bitter. It crystallizes in the form of quadrangular plates, or in four-sided prisms, terminated by an obtuse quadrangular pyramid. It is very slightly soluble in water, but very soluble in alcohol. It is formed, like most vegetable substances, of oxygen, hydrogen, and charcoal. It is most distinguished by its alkaline properties; and though like morphia, is essentially different from it. It restores a reddened blue colour, and with acids forms neutral salts, soluble in water, and crystallizable. With weak nitric acid it forms a nitrate, but the concentrated acid acts on and decomposes it; and forms a solution, at first red, but becoming yellow, and yielding oxalic acid. Its acetate is very soluble, the sulphate less so, and crystallizable in rhomboidal plates.

This substance acts on animals in a similar manner to the alcoholic infusion of the nux vomica, but more energetically.

The class of acid vegetable substances is numerous; on the contrary, that of alkaline vegetable substances is confined to morphia. Nevertheless, M. Vauquelin has noticed the alkaline properties of a substance obtained by him whilst analysing the *daphne alpina*. The new body will form another genus in the class, which may become numerous, and which has first been observed by M. Vauquelin. To recall these facts, and designate the substances by a name which will avoid circumlocution, they have called it *vauqueline*. This name is better than one entirely insignificant, or that indicates properties which may be found in other bodies.

Annales de Chimie.

AMERICAN NATIONAL PHARMACOPŒIA.—In the preface to the Pharmacopœia of the Royal College of Physicians of London, Dr. Powell, the translator, laments "that a general *Pharmacopœia Britannica* is not established, as one common dictionary, to which practitioners throughout the whole empire may uniformly refer with confidence, and without the chance of mistake, either in the name of an article, or in the mode of its preparation. In the execution of a national work of this sort great difficulties might and would occur, prejudices and different modes of thought and practice would probably create much difference of opinion, but none of these would be insurmountable to men of sense and science, and I am persuaded," observes the Doctor, "that some future age will see the advantage and even necessity of the attempt."

By an ordinance of Louis the 18th, bearing date the 8th of August, 1816, the *Pharmacopœia Gallica*, ordered to be prepared by Napoleon in 1803, is forthwith to be printed; and, within the date of six months from its publication, every apothecary is bound to procure a copy, and always to prepare his medicines strictly according to the formula; under a penalty of 500 francs.

In January, 1817, Dr. Lyman Spalding submitted to the New-York County Medical Society a project for the formation of a national pharmacopœia, by the authority of all the Medical Societies and Medical Schools in the United States.

The plan proposed was, 1. That a convention should be called in each of the four grand divisions of the United States, to be composed of delegates from all the Medical Societies and Schools. 2. That each district convention should form a pharmacopœia, and elect delegates to meet in general convention in the city of Washington, on the first of January, 1820. 3. That the general convention should, from the district convention pharmacopœias, form the national work.

In the County Medical Society, it was committed to Drs. John R. B. Rodgers, William Moore, John Watts, jun. Lyman Spalding, and Alexander H. Stevens; who after having corresponded with several of the leading medical men in each state, reported a set of resolutions, which were submitted to the Medical Society of the State of New York in February, 1818, and by them adopted, and ordered to be carried into execution, by their committee, consisting of Drs. David Hosack, J. R. B. Rodgers, Samuel L. Mitchill, John Stearns, John Watts, jun. T. Romeyn Beck, Lyman Spalding, Wright Post, and Alexander H. Stevens.

Circulars were issued in March, to the medical societies and schools in the Union, inviting their co-operation. All the institutions, which have since had meetings, have approved of the formation of the work; and most of them have appointed their delegates. From the spirit and zeal with which the delegates in every section of the country have commenced their preparatory labours in the formation of this national work, we have no hesitation in assuring our readers that the American Pharmacopœia will shortly appear.

We are credibly informed that the College of Physicians of Edinburgh, conceiving their University to be the first school of medicine in these realms, intend to apply to Parliament for authority to form a committee of eminent physicians, surgeons, and chemists for the purpose of preparing a national Pharmacopœia, to regulate the practice of Pharmacy throughout the united kingdom. The necessity of the measure is so very obvious, and the proposal so honourable to the College, that the permission of the legislature will, no doubt, be cheerfully granted. This will lead to a revision of the obsolete charter of the Royal College of Physicians of London, and the adoption of laws that are adapted to the present state of medicine, that will encourage genius and suppress quackery. Our correspondent adds, that it is not the intention of the Edinburgh College to solicit the co-operation of the London College, and, praise-worthy as the undertaking is, that an opposition from the latter is expected.

THE
GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

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OF DOCTOR JOHN LATHAM,

President of the Royal College of Physicians of London, Extraordinary Physician to the Prince Regent, late Physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Author of a Treatise on the Gout and Rheumatism, Facts and Opinions respecting Diabetes, &c. Translator of a corrected Edition of the London Pharmacopœia, &c. &c. &c.

THIS distinguished member of that class of the medical profession denominated in this country "*physicians*," is the son of a clergyman of Cheshire. After receiving a country seminary education, his father sent him to Oxford, to cultivate an acquaintance with the physical and metaphysical writings of the ancients in their original languages, to be initiated in refined or polished society, (which to the credit of the English Universities, is esteemed for morality and rational conviviality), and to form a connexion which might promote his future pursuits in life. Such was his aspiring genius at an early period, that notwithstanding the university afforded little opportunity of acquiring a knowledge of modern medicine and none of the practice, and even before he obtained the degree of M.D., he modestly commenced the trade of physician at Manchester at the early age of twenty-three—and through the exertion of his father's connexion, he shortly afterwards obtained the important appointment of physician to the Infirmary. In consequence of this success his prospects were very flattering. Active as his friends had been in procuring for him the appointment, he had soon the mortification to find that in case of indisposition, they had no intention to resort to his advice; some indeed acted so indecorously towards him as to make use of the old adage "*experientia docet*;" another betrayed his ignorance by observing that his object being evidently experience, he could not discover any reason why he should pay him for making experiments upon himself. Such a remark was not to be expected from a man whose time was chiefly employed in measuring the articles of his manufactory. Little was he aware that the physician, young as he was, could, and probably had, read the works of Hippocrates and Galen in the original languages. What an insult did he offer to our university and to classic dignity by presuming to *measure* the talents of a physician by his own powers! The untutored manufacturers and tradesmen of this town presuming to think for themselves, the field did not prove so productive as *Physician* Latham (for he was then not a *Doctor*) had anticipated; he therefore determined to quit it, and to try his fortune in Oxford, the inhabitants of which having so long respired classic air, he supposed were more competent to form a fair estimate of his professional talents,

than the plodding inhabitants of Manchester. Here every effort was made to bring him forward with éclat; Dr. Austin declared him to be a "*rara avis in terrâ*," and resigned his appointment of physician to the county infirmary in his favour. Notwithstanding he was now seated among his convivial and studious friends, the field proved unproductive—he however continued to exercise the office of physician to the best of his abilities at the infirmary, until he was entitled by residence to a doctor's degree. This he demanded as a matter of course, and which as a matter of course was granted, without passing an examination touching his qualification to exercise the healing art. With this testimonial authorizing him to exercise the office of physician in any part of his Majesty's dominions, he marched off to London, where many of his university acquaintances resided. In order to second the efforts of his friends, to usher him into notice, it was deemed politic that he should make some display of his literary and scientific talents, by a demi-popular dissertation on a prevailing disease. Gout and rheumatism being prevalent, and in general tedious and distressing complaints (of course the victims very eager to obtain relief) were selected as proper subjects for a *practical* dissertation. This selection was indeed judicious; but to insure success something novel must be advanced: the learned doctor, after taking the various phenomena of the two diseases into his most serious consideration, declared his thorough conviction that rheumatism is a mere modification of gout, that gout and rheumatism are not two distinct diseases, as erroneously supposed by the profession, and that the primary local affections are not in reality inflammation, although attended with increased heat, tumefaction, distension of blood vessels, acute pain, &c.; and for advancing this opinion he boldly gave a reason, viz. because it does not proceed to suppuration!!

The pamphlet was industriously advertised, as exhibiting a *new* view of gout and rheumatism, and the name of Latham became so associated with these diseases, that his advice was frequently resorted to by rheumatic and gouty invalids. The doctor's opinions being unfavourably received by the members of the profession, even *practical* apothecaries daring publicly to ridicule them; the fame he acquired was of short duration. The first *public* appointment the doctor held in London, was that of physician to the Magdalen Hospital, for which he was chiefly indebted to the late Dr. Saunders. He was afterwards appointed physician to the Middlesex Hospital, which he held only for a short time. A vacancy occurring at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, he offered himself a candidate, and having no competitor, he was unanimously elected. Here he delivered clinical lectures, but although they were gratuitous, there was something in his practice and opinions so tame and uninteresting, that he seldom had more than three or four attendants. At the hospital he was for some time without a pupil, and we believe at no time had more than two, whilst the surgeons could boast of having as many hundreds!!

In the year 1787, some members of the college fancied that their pharmacopœia would become obsolete, if it was not made more consistent with the advanced state of chemistry: a committee was accordingly nominated to modernize it—at the head of which was Dr. Latham,

Little attention having been paid to the science of chemistry by the members of the profession at that time, the new edition of the pharmacopœia was not unfavourably received, or rather it escaped criticism. In consequence of the active part the Doctor had taken in correcting the work, the college allowed him the privilege to publish a translation of it, the profit of which generally amounts to three thousand pounds. The Doctor, by means of annotations, large type, and spacious margins, extended the work to an eight shilling volume. The translation was accurate, and the language affords the prettiest specimen of the poverty of the English tongue that ever appeared in this country, from the pen of a classic writer. A diffusion of a knowledge of chemistry among the medical profession, proved fatal to the reputation of the New Pharmacopœia; and the general cry of *unchemical* and *uneconomical* became so general, that the college could not prudently postpone a revision. With this arduous task, the Doctor had little to do. The merits, or rather demerits, of this pretended corrected edition, we have noticed in our biographical sketch of Dr. Powell. Notwithstanding the public situations the Doctor had filled, and the publicity which the translation of the Pharmacopœia had given to his name, his private practice continued so unproductive, that he began to think of returning to Oxford. A very fortunate circumstance, however, occurred at this time, which brightened his prospects:—a wealthy merchant being suddenly attacked in a manner which, to the ignorant by-standers, seemed to threaten the immediate extinction of life, the Doctor, being the nearest physician, was solicited to attend. Under the management he advised, or the assistance of that able coadjutor, Dame Nature, the alarming symptoms soon disappeared, and the patient was speedily restored to health. So satisfied was the merchant that he was indebted for his recovery, to the prompt and judicious practice the Doctor adopted, that he embraced every opportunity to recommend him. By this “lucky hit,” as Dr. Warren termed Medical success, his private practice became so extensive, that he could no longer find time to discharge his duty as a physician to St. Bartholomew’s Hospital; this appointment he, therefore, resigned; and being succeeded by Dr. Powell, his resignation was not regretted by the patients, nor in any ways felt by the charity. The Doctor’s manners, and the attention he pays to his private practice, are particularly pleasing, and well calculated to secure the good word of his patients, or, as a late American observes, to permanent his connexion. In the chamber scene he is always prodigiously great. In approaching the bedside, although on tiptoe, he exhibits an imposing dignity. His first introduction to a patient is highly prepossessing—his attitude and countenance producing conviction that he anticipates all the patient has to say, and fully enters into his feelings; his listening attitude is indeed particularly striking; he attends to the long narrative of symptoms, causes, &c. with inflexible firmness, and he interrogates with great minuteness and judgment. To ascertain the state of the pulse with precision, he fixes his eyes on his watch, at the time of examination, with a countenance exhibiting profound wisdom, sympathetic tenderness, and the interest he feels in the fate of his patient. He examines the excretions with attention; and when the urine is in excess, he not unfrequently conde-

ascends to taste it, in order to discover if it contains saccharine matter or the uric acid, and in this particular, we believe, he has advanced a step beyond any other physician. The humanity and benevolence, thus so conspicuous in his conduct towards his patients, he exercises in so mild a manner, that cannot but prove highly gratifying. The confidence it inspires, tends in no small degree to reconcile the unfortunate sufferer to his situation; and by quieting the mind, often proves more beneficial than medicine itself. Indeed, without the confidence of a patient, the remedies of the most skilful physician seldom prove successful. It is to confidence alone, that all nostrums are indebted for their reputation.

The conduct of Dr. Latham, at the bed side, never fails to leave a favourable impression on the minds of the patient and by-standers; but, alas, how does all this terminate? To what treatment do the questions of the physician, and the narrative of the patient lead? The Doctor adjourns to another room to write a prescription. The prescription is written in bold characters. If he be interrogated as to the *modus operandi* of the medicine, he will wave the subject, and talk of the naturals and non-naturals. The man of intelligence will, indeed, soon discover that he does not proceed on any knowledge of the vital principle, and that he is not better acquainted with the nature of diseases, and the effects of remedies, than the surgeon-apothecary. The prescription being finished, and some directions given to the nurse, the fee is presented, and most graciously received; and this interesting part of the ceremony being finished, the learned Doctor hastens to his carriage, to re-act the part elsewhere. But, notwithstanding the frequency of this performance every day, we have never heard of an instance of his sympathetic feelings having carried him so far, as to enervate his mind, or render him incompetent to the proper discharge of his duty. Indeed, we have never heard of his being subject to mental agitation, from the alarming situation of his patients, which too often cloud and embarrass the judgment of inexperienced physicians, or men who do not possess the philosophical steadiness which Dr. Latham, in the most trying scenes, never fails to exhibit. Like men of genius, the Doctor occasionally varies his visiting conduct. At Bartholomew's Hospital, we have often seen him enter the wards, and approach the bed side of his patients with manly steps, and like an experienced general, to chase death from one ward to another, with rapid strides; indeed, on one occasion, he followed up this wanton and cruel enemy to the human race with such rapidity, that he absolutely passed the doors of two wards in pursuit of him; and had not an officious old nurse acquainted him with the mischief he had done in her ward, it is supposed, that he would have brought the grim tyrant to battle, and that by means of Dover's sudorific powder, and a linctus of hips and oil of almonds, he would have obtained a most complete victory.

Highly as the Doctor's opinions were estimated in the city, the success of his practice could not eclipse the splendid abilities of Dr. Babington. As this physician's reputation extended, the practice of Dr. Latham became more circumscribed. At length, the Doctor finding his popularity on the decline in the city, he signified his intention gradually to withdraw from practice; and for this purpose he quitted

his residence in Bedford Row, a very retired spot, and took up a residence in a *public* street at the west end, and, with the view of enjoying his retirement, he made a book on Diabetes, which was industriously advertised under the plausible title of "Facts and Opinions respecting Diabetes." In the dedication of this work he informs us, that an indulgent public had raised him to a state of affluence and independence, and that he had purchased an estate in Cheshire by the *fair fruit* of his professional industry. Now, of all the learned Doctor has written, said, or done, this observation is only worthy of notice. We beg to ask this humane gentleman what he means by the *fair fruit* of his professional industry?—If he does not possess a knowledge of diseases and remedies superior to the surgeon-apothecary, why should he be more entitled to a remuneration of one guinea than the apothecary, who, in general, devotes more time to his patients? That he is better acquainted with the nature and character of diseases, and the virtues of remedies, than the surgeon-apothecaries, we deny. And if this proud President of the Royal College of Physicians, with all his boasted superiority of talents and the *fair fruit* of his industry, were compelled to submit to the examination now imposed by the legislature on apothecaries, there is not a medical man in the kingdom who would, for a moment, doubt the result. He would find, that a testimonial is not obtained of the court of examiners of apothecaries with that facility as a Doctor's degree is at the English universities. If a physician be therefore justly entitled to a remuneration of a guinea for a visit of a few minutes, the surgeon-apothecary is surely not less so. But of a tradesman, who, by dint of labour and indefatigable attention to business, has great difficulty in making "both ends meet," the *demand* of one guinea we cannot consider *fair*. On the contrary, is it not oppressive? and when he has also a large family to support, is it not cruel?—We say *demand*, because we have met with many instances of the fee of one guinea having been demanded of tradesmen with large families for each visit, and for some days it was repeated two or three times!! We also very lately saw a patient, living in a poor hut, which, externally and internally, exhibited poverty and wretchedness, who informed us that she had been attended by Dr. Latham, but that she was obliged to discontinue him on account of his taking a guinea on every visit. The fee is so far a voluntary donation, that a physician cannot recover it in law for his attendance on a patient. The man, therefore, who demands a guinea for a visit of a few minutes, must be a very avaricious person, and when he dares to term it a *fair* reward, must entertain a very high opinion of his own talents. The enjoyment of wealth to a considerate man, one would suppose, must greatly depend upon its source. The Liverpool quack, in all his glory, we are credibly told, is far from being a happy man.

Dr. Latham, to his other titles, adds that of Physician *Extraordinary* to the Prince Regent. A *royal* appointment of this kind is obtained by interest, and that too of the lowest degree (not unfrequently through the application of a domestic, or some one of less respectability), and in no instance, that we know of, has it been given as a reward for merit. To boast of such an empty appointment, betrays a shallow mind; but of this, no person can suspect the learned President of the Royal Col-

lege of Physicians. Dr. Latham, on taking up his residence in London, was admitted as a matter of course, a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, having kept the requisite number of terms at an English university. On the resignation of Sir Lucas Pepys, Bart. M. D. he was elected President, no other candidate having offered. The Doctor still continues to exercise the duties of a physician in London, and, as far as we can learn, is as desirous to cultivate the practice as he was when he first settled among us.

On his work on Diabetes we have made no comment, because we discover nothing that merits either censure or applause. It is a kind of milk and water production, and if a diabetic patient adopts the mode of treatment, or an opposite one, the result will be the same.

NATURAL CLASSIFICATION OF DISEASES.—(*Continued from page 1112.*)—One of the most important circumstances in favour of a classification of diseases, according to the principles we have stated, is, that by this mode, we obtain a clearer view of the balance of activity, which is necessary to constitute health. This may be confined to definite limits, when we observe, that although the balance may be deranged, in a particular organ, only, or even a part of an organ, of one system, yet when weighing it with regard to the others, the whole of the diseased system must be taken into consideration. Thus in acute disease of the liver, attended with symptomatic fever, we cannot consider the functions of the liver alone; but must take the whole of the Ganglionic Viscera, as opposed to the Cerebral. Experience shows, that this has long been tacitly agreed to, as the treatment in these cases is by no means confined to the liver, but extends to the Viscera belonging to the Ganglionic System in general.

By considering diseases according to the nervous systems, to which they principally belong, we can account for phenomena which have been observed to occur during morbid actions, from the earliest institution of medicine. Thus we meet with no disease that does not exhibit some phenomena, which seem to oppose the morbid symptoms essential to it. The ancients seem to have been well aware of this circumstance, and many of them laid down no other rule of practice, but what they said *nature* pointed out. But not being acquainted with the animal economy, and therefore incapable of judging accurately, which were the morbid actions, or which the salutary, their practice was generally inert, and often tended to increase the disease that they proposed to have relieved. A most conspicuous proof of the latter circumstance may be seen in the difference between the ancient mode of treating fever, and that adopted by the moderns; hence this disease, which was so generally fatal in former times, is now, comparatively speaking, not dangerous.

The tendency of the animal economy to oppose morbid actions, has been taken notice of by practitioners, even to the present day, and has passed under various denominations, until it has ended in the term *vis Medicatrix Natura*. We know that all diseases must be cured by this power, as it is only by the functions of the system, which he is able to excite or repress, that a practitioner can oppose morbid actions, for it is evident that in the dead body there is no disease. But it is obvious that this term only expresses a fact, without explaining its na-

ture, hence that accurate observer, DR. CULLEN, could form no definite idea of its meaning; but referred it to a general law of the animal economy, whereby it happens that powers which have a tendency to hurt or destroy the system, often excite such motions as are suited to obviate the effects of the noxious power. But so little was he acquainted with the source from whence this opposition to disease arose, that he says, "although the *vis Medicatrix Naturæ* must unavoidably be received as a fact, yet wherever it is admitted, it throws an obscurity on our system. And it is only where the importance of our art is very manifest and considerable, that we ought to admit of it in practice."

When, however, we contemplate the operations of the different systems which constitute the human frame, we perceive that each system is formed by nature to perform certain functions in the animal economy. But they are so intimately connected with each other, when conspiring to support the animal body, as one whole and entire system, that the function of any one cannot be interrupted without having some influence upon the rest. The effect of this influence then must be, to excite or repress the actions of the different organs. We find, however, in the investigation of diseases, that the systems which are not immediately engaged in the morbid state, will take on actions which are not only capable of resisting the effect of disease upon themselves, but often prove salutary, by restoring the healthy balance of activity, throughout the whole. This tendency, then, is the long celebrated *vis Medicatrix Naturæ*, which we are enabled to point out with precision, and support or excite, during the treatment of diseases, by considering the operations of the animal frame, according to the natural classification which is now proposed.

At first view, it may appear difficult to arrange the variety of diseases to which the human frame is liable, under three such classes as are now proposed. It is necessary, therefore, to point out the distinguishing characters of each nervous system while in health.

If we could discover any property peculiar to a nervous system, which cannot be present where such nervous system is absent, and must therefore be essential to its perfection, it is evident that any disease affecting that nervous system, must be indicated by a modification of that property. Hence, then, to form any certain diagnosis of diseases, we must know what essential property of the nervous systems, is primarily and principally affected in each. When we consider that each system of nerves is distributed to certain parts of the animal frame, and there performs an exclusive function, although the three systems are held in reciprocal communication. By pointing out clearly the function which each has to perform in the healthy state, we will find little difficulty in appropriating a derangement of any part of those functions to its proper class.

The *Ganglionic system* being that discovered to be present in the first order of animals which exhibits a nervous apparatus; it would naturally appear the first claim to our attention, when investigating the nature of disease. It is indeed rendered almost necessary to understand the nature of diseases in this system before we could attend with advantage to either of the superior systems. For although we find an established

law in the animal economy, that each superior system has the power of modifying the others inferior to it. Thus the changes of the blood in the lungs could not take place without muscular actions; yet the others could not perform their functions without obtaining their support and nourishment from this. Physiology shows the evidence of this, for we find the *Ganglionic system* is appropriated, by nature, to the formation of the various substances which compose the animal body, and to remove those particles which have already performed their office. Any diseases, therefore, primarily affecting these functions must belong to the *Ganglionic system*.

Physiology teaches us that the nerves originating in the spinal canal are all directed to the muscular parts of the body; and that every part constituted of muscular substance must derive its stimulus of activity from this system. In viewing the connexion, however, between this system and the *Ganglionic*, we observe a very important circumstance. It has been already shown that the latter is calculated for the formation of the different materials of the animal frame; but when the Spinal System is superadded, this appears to regulate entirely the mode in which these substances are to be deposited. Thus we find that when a spinal nerve is divided, or included in a ligature, the parts to which it was distributed first cease to grow, and then diminish in size, owing to absorption continuing after the deposition of new particles had been stopped. These phenomena occur, although the sanguiferous circulation be unimpaired. Paralysis is a familiar example of this circumstance from disease.

Another important circumstance is, that no heat will be generated by the circulation of the blood through the part. This has been satisfactorily proved by the experiments of Mr. BRONIE, as related in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London, having destroyed the functions of the nerves by means of certain poisons, while the circulation of the blood was unimpaired, the temperature of the animals gradually diminished.

If then we should observe that the action of the muscles was impaired, while the circulation of the blood continued free, or that the muscular substance became diminished, while the powers of assimilation remained perfect, we should have little hesitation in attributing the disease to the Spinal System. Striking examples of diseases of this system are given by Dr. Reid, in his able treatise on Tetanus and Hydrophobia.

With respect to diseases of the *Cerebral System* it is obvious, from what has been said of the others, that any affection of the intellectual powers, and of the five senses, must belong to this, as we find that the nervous mass of the brain is appropriated to these functions. As, however, in man and the superior animals, the substances necessary for the nourishment of the individual, must be chosen from the great variety of materials which surround him, some of which are highly destructive to the powers of life, we see there must be an intimate connexion between this system, which is endowed by nature with the capability of making a choice, and the other systems. *This must therefore regulate the others.* But as it must be supplied itself with energy by the *Ganglionic System*, we may perceive how intimate a connexion between these two must always exist.

Hence derangements in the functions of the latter, so frequently excite diseases in the former, and *vice versa*. There is, however, a very material advantage derived from this circumstance, in the treatment of disorders of the *Cerebral System*, as we are enabled to relieve diseases of that class, by acting with medicine on the *Ganglionic Viscera*.

In an account of Dr. Reid's treatise on the nature and treatment of tetanus, we have fully elucidated this point.

INDIGESTION, &c.—Dr. Hall, of Nottingham, has lately fixed his attention on a class of disorders arising from sedentariness and confinement, which, in consequence of his not being able to trace to a satisfactory source, he conceives to be new diseases. The town of Nottingham, on account of extensive manufactories of cotton stockings and lace, embraces a great population, the majority of which (men, women, and children) is engaged for many hours at a time in a sedentary occupation, the consequences of which are, the abdominal viscera, particularly the stomach, liver, and intestines, become sluggish and overloaded, the circulation languid, and the nervous system preternaturally excitable. These symptoms, the Doctor imagines, do not constitute the disease termed dyspepsia, or indigestion; and not having been able to discover the real nature and connexion of the general and local affections, he has adopted a new term, which he thinks, without implying any opinion on the subject, will sufficiently express the important features of the maladies. From the great resemblance they bear to other disorders, he has denominated the class "*Mimoses*," signifying *imitators*. This term, he fancies, "will at once denote a remarkable peculiarity of these disorders, and serve to impress the mind with the necessity of distinguishing, in *local* affections, between those which belong to the present class, and others which are either primary or have a *different origin*!!

Of this class, the Doctor enumerates no less than five species. The first termed *acute mimosis*, is characterized by "weakness, tremor, flattening, fluttering, tendency to perspiration, susceptibility to hurry and agitation, and loss of flesh." In the treatment of this disease, the Doctor chiefly employs a purgative medicine (calomel with rhubarb, aloes, senna, Epsom salt, and calcined magnesia, varied according to their effects on the bowels), which, with attention to diet, air, exercise, bathing or sponging, and sleep, he has generally found successful. When it is complicated with a local disease, as some complaint of the chest, palpitation of the heart, a spasmodic affection, pains in the colon, constipation, icterus, &c., the Doctor has found that it requires additional attention!! Thus it appears that the learned Doctor, even when his *acute mimosis* is clearly symptomatic of a distinct disorder, or serious local affection, that he still considers it as a *primary disease*!!! A little more experience will enable him to distinguish between causes and effects.

The second species, termed *chronic mimosis*, which is denoted by "fits of despondency and gloom; an invincible disinclination for exercise, pain about the head, sinking at the precordia, and heat or fulness of the stomach. The causes and treatment of this species are the same as the acute form, only the affection being of a longer continuance, a more persevering use of mercury and of gentle purgatives of rhubarb

and aloes, and a more constant and habitual attention to diet, with gentle exercise, are necessary!!"

The third species is distinguished by the term *mimosiis decolor*. This species occurs principally in *female* youth, but frequently in married women, both young and old, and *occasionally* in the young and sedentary of the male sex. He divides this species into two forms, viz. the acute and chronic. He defines it to be a diseased state of the *complexion*, and generally of the surface, with recurrent pain of the head and of the side, palpitation of the heart, fluttering and nervousness, and some tendency to loss of flesh and œdematous swelling." This species, the Doctor observes, is often symptomatic of the acute *mimosiis*!! The causes are sedentariness, confinement, *too long* lactation, *frequent hæmorrhages*, anxiety, *fatigue*, and loss of rest. In the treatment of this species, the Doctor very shrewdly observes, "that it is absolutely necessary to avoid or obviate the *causes* of the affection, otherwise the complaint will continue progressive, and run into the chronic form!" Even for this third species, the treatment he recommends consists in the administration of the same remedies, and attention to diet, &c., as recommended for the first and second species, viz. the acute and chronic *mimosiis*!

The fourth species he terms *mimosiis urgens*. By the word *urgens*, he means to imply *hurry*. Besides this character, he describes the disorder as combining some *considerable* emotion of the mind, as sighing, sobbing, tears, or laughter, with a sense of suffocation, and with some urgent affection of the head, heart, respiration, stomach, or muscular system. Of this species, the Doctor has met with three forms, which he denominates the *mild*, the *severe*, and the *inveterate*. Like the preceding species, he tells us it is often symptomatic of the third species, viz. the *decolor*, or continued form of the acute!!! That is, we presume, in common language, a symptom of a symptom. The causes are, severe mental emotions, as excessive joy or grief, and of the less curable, (the *inveterate*, we suppose), *surprise* and *fright*. Under the head of treatment, the Doctor makes the following very sensible remark.—"The treatment embraces two objects, viz. the means of affording immediately relief in the paroxysm, and the mode of prevention!!" For the first object he recommends ether, spirit of sal volatile, opium, stimulating liniments, fomentation, and, *if necessary*, blood-letting. The prevention, he tells us, consists in removing the original disorder, and, for this purpose, the same treatment is recommended as for the other species.

The fifth species, denominated *mimosiis inquieta*, is denoted by *continued* restlessness and *jactitation*, wakefulness, delirium, continued rapid and hurried breathing, frequent dry cough, a sense of fluttering and hurry, some spasmodic affection, hiccough, and great frequency of the pulse. The Doctor thinks it is of great importance to distinguish this species from the fourth species, viz. the *mimosiis urgens*, for it is more serious and alarming. In the treatment of this complaint, he observes, a purgative is the remedy on which dependance is chiefly to be placed, when it arises from a disordered or loaded state of the stomach and bowels. If an *obscure* disease exists, he sensibly observes it must be removed before relief can be obtained. In the other cases, tincture of

opium, spirit of sal volatile, wine, stimulating liniments, *proper fluid nourishment* cautiously given with wine, bathing the face with cold water, the *effervescent medicines*, fanning, and a free air, are the principal remedies. The Doctor gives six cases of this disease, to illustrate the beneficial effects of his practice. In the first, "a mild purgative was prescribed, which effectually removed the symptoms!!" The second was restored to health "by mild carminative purgatives." The third eventually recovered by the use of the following remedies:—cold water to the face, fresh air, fanning, tincture of opium, and spirit of sal volatile, although, "at one time, the *pupils appeared to be contracted* and FIXED, and the *body and limbs were stretched out spasmodically!!*"—Was not this evidently a case of catalepsy? The other three cases terminated in death. In one, he observes, the affection continued, notwithstanding *every* remedy, and eventually exhausted the patient, already much reduced by a severe disease, and *active remedies!!!*" So that it appears the *active* remedies the Doctor employed, tended to accelerate the fatal termination of the malady. The only novelty that is to be found in this book, is the classification of a certain combination of symptoms, (which the Doctor has not been able to trace to their proper source,) under new names, conveying no information respecting their cause, nature, or seat!! This curious class, *mimoses*, reminds us of an attempt which an American physician made a few years ago, to arrange all the diseases which occur in the human frame, according to the parts of the body in which they originated, or were principally seated, as the bones, muscles, nerves, &c. &c. Before he advanced far in the list of diseases, he found it necessary to add a column for such, the seat of which was doubtful. This class he termed *chaotic*. On a second examination of his arrangement, he found it necessary to remove so many diseases from the classes in which he had placed them to the chaotic, that the latter comprised more than three parts of his list of diseases. He accordingly abandoned the undertaking, as tending to no practical utility. The diseases to which Dr. Hall has thought proper to give new names are of common occurrence, and less involved in obscurity than any other. The two first species are evidently dyspepsia, varying only from the state of the nervous system. If he had taken the trouble to refer to the Nosology of Sauvage, he would have found old names for all the varieties of dyspepsia, both idiopathic and symptomatic. His third species is chlorosis, and far-advanced dyspepsia. His fourth is hysteria, and his fifth hectic fever, attendant on the last stage of organic disease of the chest or abdomen, particularly of the mesenteric glands, termed *tubercles mesenterica*.

Dr. Hall's division of his mimosic class leads to no practical advantage, for in every species he adopts the purgative treatment so much extolled by Dr. Hamilton, and when his patients recovered, he attributed his success entirely to it. Here the Doctor is so close a follower or *imitator* of Dr. Hamilton, that if the term *mimosis* be not applicable to the diseases he has defined, it may with some propriety be applied to himself, and this class of practitioners is but too numerous.

The purgative system of Dr. Hamilton has, no doubt, proved very beneficial in a variety of diseases of the abdominal viscera, particularly

those which arise from gluttony, the abuse of spirituous liquors, indolence, and in common cases of indigestion, attended with local or general plenitude; but where indigestion is the consequence of direct debility of the nervous system, of ulceration of the intestines, or of organic disease of the heart, the free use of purgatives, as recommended by Dr. Hamilton, is highly injurious—and, in many cases, we have known it to have hurried patients to their graves by their debilitating effects; and we have no doubt, that the indiscriminate adoption of the practice has terminated many lives that might have been saved by a more judicious treatment.

A late writer observes, that medicine will remain a conjectural art, till we have a more perfect classification of diseases; probably, it was this observation that induced Dr. Hall to attempt to effect this desirable object, if so, much credit is due to him for a laudable intention; but, in our humble opinion, nothing has tended to check the progress of medical science more than the nosological arrangements of diseases.

The first object of a nosological practitioner is to ascertain by the symptoms, the malady of his patient; and when he has done this, the remedy is, as it were, concatenated with the name. Hence, if it be hysteria, the young practitioner immediately thinks of assafoetida, ether, or some other favourite antispasmodic, which are indiscriminately administered, without taking into consideration the state of the system, with respect to plethora, or whether the morbid excitement of the nervous system be from increased or diminished vitality. If the symptoms should denote indigestion, he immediately thinks of stimulating and tonic medicines, without duly considering, if the disorder of the stomach arises from morbid irritation, or from debility, and if the latter, whether it be direct or indirect. Over-distension of the blood-vessels of the head, by compressing the brain, is a very common cause of indigestion in elderly subjects; and in such cases, stimulating medicines, by increasing the impetus of blood, may produce apoplexy. Many weak physicians suppose, that to point out a variety of species of a disease, and to distinguish them by high-sounding terms, shews great accuracy of observation, and profound learning. To the ignorant, this paltry exhibition of words may appear wonderfully great. How far more commendable would it be, to attempt to form a system of medicine, on a knowledge of the economy of the animal system, so that a practitioner might know what he has to regulate under local or general derangements. The regulation of the temperature of the body, is unquestionably of great importance, under every disease—and yet, where is the physician who pays the smallest attention to it, or knows any thing of the source of animal heat? Indeed the system of many fashionable physicians of the present day, is only a system of splendid quackery.

Dr. Hall asserts, that his mimicking symptoms are too often referred to a disordered state of the chylo-poietic organs. Because Mr. Abernethy refers a great variety of diseases to this source, we are not to suppose, that so great an anatomist and physiologist is not aware that those organs are often symptomatically affected, and that the stomach and liver receive their power of performing their offices from the cerebral and Ganglionic systems. Mr. Abernethy's object was, to lay

down a system for young practitioners, by which they may do much good, and could not possibly do mischief. The object of his practice is, to allay morbid irritation of the stomach, to produce healthy digestion, and keep up a regular action of the intestines, and when these are effected, a state of system follows, unfavourable for a great variety of diseases. If the stomach be sympathetically disordered, do we not diminish the primary disease, by quieting those parts which may sympathize with the organ primarily affected? If organic disease exist, what more can be done, than to produce healthy materials or chyle for its mutation, and to promote the action of the absorbent system by the blue pill? Even when the irritation commences in the brain and nervous system, how powerfully do we subdue it, by keeping that organ (the stomach) quiet, with which the brain particularly sympathizes? Of all the systems that have been broached, in this or any other country, we contend, that that by Abernethy, is the only one that is calculated to place the body in a state of health; and when in that condition, what are the diseases, general or local, that will continue to exist? Abernethy is fully aware, as every physiologist must be, that the stomach and all the viscera derive their power of performing their functions from the brain; and, therefore, when they do not properly perform their offices, in consequence of debility of brain or branches of nervous system, a remedy that is capable of acting directly on them will be necessary; such a remedy is the galvanic fluid: and we have lately met with many cases of general nervous debility, and particularly of the stomach, which had resisted the use of powerful tonic medicines, that were afterwards cured by it, under the direction of Mr. L. Beaume. Another powerful auxiliary, in such cases, is vital air. By inhaling this air, during the use of galvanism, the whole system is so invigorated, that effusions of serum in the cellular membrane of the extremities have been speedily removed, the stomach rendered capable of performing its office, and the patients were speedily restored to health. Those were cases of debility of the *primary moving powers* of the body, which, by the Hamiltonian system, would soon have been brought to an unfavourable issue. In several cases of dropsy of the abdomen and extremities, we have also witnessed the beneficial effects of the combined use of these remedies.

CROAKING OF THE BOWELS.—Dr. Bradley of Huddersfield, supposing that he has discovered the cause of this complaint, so distressing to young females, has published a voluminous work on the subject, in which he gives the disorder the fine sounding name of *stridor abdominalis*. The opinions of the antients, respecting its cause and seat, the Doctor declares, are not more incorrect than those which are maintained by the moderns, who refer the cause to depraved digestion, to peculiarity of the nervous system, an affection of the kidneys, or obstructions or structure in the intestinal canal. The Doctor, in the course of forty years' practice, has met with forty patients afflicted with this disease, 36 of which were females. Finding that tonic and aperient medicines afforded only temporary relief, he was induced to extend his investigation of the cause beyond the digestive organs. The patients complaining of frequent pains, and great weakness of the lower extremities, and other symptoms that usually attend spinal

affections, he resolved to examine the spine of a young female who had been long under his care. As he predicted, so did it turn out: some of the vertebræ of the loins he discovered to be distorted to the left side, and he fancied, in some degree, anteriorly. By pressing with his fingers on each side, pain was produced. On making the same examination of the spines of his other patients, who were subject to frequent recurrences of the disorder, he found them to be either laterally curved or distorted, or in some morbid state, as evinced by the pain produced by pressure on each side of the lumbar vertebræ. The Doctor, therefore, attributes the croaking noise to a *dislocation* of the abdominal viscera, by a projecting part of a diseased spine.

Having discovered the cause to be seated in the spine, the treatment is chiefly directed to its removal. For this purpose, caustics were applied in the usual manner, active purgatives administered occasionally, and the saline mixture at short intervals, to keep the system quiet. These remedies, with an horizontal position, the Doctor found beneficial. This croaking affection, to which he has given the fine sounding term of *stridor abdominalis* to shew the importance of his discovery, is, according to his own account, not a primary disease, but the mere effects of a mechanical cause. Had the Doctor examined the spines of all his other patients, he would have found that it is far from being a constant attendant on even an internal projection of the spine, which, if its effects are mechanical, is most likely to excite it.

The croaking noise of the intestines is occasioned by gas, chiefly, in the tranverse portion of the colon, which, in consequence of spasmodic affection of the muscular coat of the descending portion, is prevented from passing downwards. The muscular fibres of the colon being in a state of morbid irritation, they contract irregularly; the consequence of which is, the air being forced into the descending portion, and from it back again to the tranverse and ascending portions, the noise is produced, which Dr. Bradley has magnified into a most formidable disease. The morbid irritation of the muscular coat of the colon is probably hysterical, because it occurs chiefly in females who are subject to hysterical affections, to difficult menstruation, or *fluor albus*, and is frequently brought on by mental agitation. We never met, or heard of a case in a male subject; and in all the cases that we have seen, there was no symptom of any spinal disease; but as morbid irritation of the spinal nerves is a common consequence of disease of the vertebræ, we cannot be surprised, that it, as well as irritation of the bladder, rectum, &c. which are common attendants, should occur. French ladies, who are very subject to the croaking affection, are well aware of the cause; and on its first attack, they have recourse to a lavement of warm water, which allays the irritation of the nerves of the colon, and facilitates the escape of the confined gas; and those who are subject to it, on any slight agitation of mind, uniformly employ this remedy as a preventive, previous to their going into company.

Dr. Bradley's work, (which he has ingeniously extended to an eight shilling volume) is, in fact, a treatise on spinal diseases, in the causes, treatment, &c. of which, he offers nothing new—and the fine sounding name of *stridor abdominalis* is given to this occasional attendant, to give the appearance of importance to his pretended discovery.

LOSS OF POWER OVER VOLUNTARY MUSCLES.—Dr. Bostock has published a case of loss of power over the voluntary muscles, which occurred in his practice during his residence at Liverpool. The patient (a well-formed man between 30 and 40 years of age) first complained of a pain on the outside, a little above the knee, of one of the lower extremities, which sometimes shot up to the hip. The complaint continued to advance; and after an interval of two months, he found that his power of moving the limb was evidently diminished. During the next two months, the affection slowly increased; he continued to lose more and more the power of exercising the limb. After another interval of two months, he lost, in some degree, his command over the other limb, and felt shooting pains about the knee and hip joint; on putting his feet to the ground, a sensation darted through the legs, which caused him involuntarily to draw them up with a jerk. Shortly after this period, a difficulty in the articulation of particular words was evident. The disease continued to advance, till he lost the command over all the voluntary muscles; and after dragging on a most wretched state of existence for ten months, he paid the debt of nature. Although he had entirely lost all influence over the muscles of the extremities, they possessed their full share of sensibility to external impressions and also their natural temperature. In the course of the disorder the spine was repeatedly examined by Dr. Bostock and Mr. Christian, an able surgeon at Liverpool, but they could not discover any appearance of disease in it. The treatment Dr. Bostock adopted having proved unsuccessful, he has thought proper to give no account of it; anxious however to discover the physical cause of such a long continued and extensive train of complaints, the doctor attended with Mr. Christian to examine the body.

Supposing that the cause was seated in the brain, they first proceeded to examine that organ; although the scrutiny was very minute they discovered no appearance in it to account for the malady. They then extended their examination to the spinal marrow of the neck, but here nothing appeared to account for the sufferings of the patient. The doctor being fatigued with the minute scrutiny, the pursuit was abandoned. A surgeon who had witnessed the progress of this disease from its commencement, one would have supposed, would have referred the sufferings of this unfortunate patient to some morbid condition of the lumbar portion of the spinal marrow; but strange to say, this part of the body, in which the disease evidently commenced, was not examined!! We regret much that Dr. Bostock has not noticed the means he employed to relieve the patient, being satisfied that the publication of the unsuccessful treatment of a disease, may be productive of as much benefit to the profession and public, as many of the cases of successful treatment which appear in the Transactions of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of London. Now as this case was read at a meeting of this society, why not publish the remarks that were made on it by the respectable members that were present?

ANEURISM.—Dr. Albers, of Bremen, has published a case of aneurism of the inguinal artery, which was cured by pressure; the subject (a sailor of thirty-six years of age) refusing to submit to the operation of tying, Dr. Albers and surgeon Schmidt resolved to

employ pressure; for this purpose they gave him a compress, consisting of a cushion attached to a strap, to fasten round the body; on the lower part of the cushion there was another strap to secure it round the thigh. The cushion consisted of two iron pieces, the uppermost having the form of a common cushion externally covered with leather, the lower piece was round and covered with strong cloth and leather. This was connected with the upper piece by a screw, by which the pressure on the tumour might be increased or diminished at pleasure. After the pressure had been continued two months, the tumour became so painful and the thigh and leg so cedematous, that it became necessary to remove the instrument; the pain, however, still continued so violent as to confine him to bed. The swelling continued to augment till it was as large as a goose's egg, the surface became inflamed, and the pulsation increased; the pain extended over the thigh, and a distressing sense of coldness was experienced in the limb; a low diet and corresponding medical treatment were adopted; it was however not thought necessary to unload the sanguiferous system. After the expiration of a week, the pulsation, and swelling were so diminished, as to admit of the reapplication of the compress; no great inconvenience followed; he remained in bed; the size of the tumour continued to decrease, the swelling and pain of the thigh also gradually diminished, and the patient soon was able to walk with the aid of a stick. The disease continued to lessen till no pulsation was perceptible, and the swelling and pain had totally subsided. The compress was then discontinued, and on Dr. Albers seeing him four months afterwards, he could not discover any appearance of the disease, or the slightest pulsation in the groin. He therefore concludes that the artery was obliterated by adhesive inflammation. Dr. Albers briefly notices a case of aneurism of the artery of the upper arm, to which he applied a compress for six years without effecting a cure: the complaint however was rendered stationary by it. Disease took place in the chest, which he terms pectoral angina, and the patient died suddenly without any previous sensation of suffocation.

PALSY.—Mr. Rose, an ingenious surgeon of Swaffham, has published two cases of this disease, which he treated with the vomic nut, in one of which it proved useful, and in the other useless.

The patient to whom he administered the remedy with success was forty years of age, his constitution was weakly, his temperament leucophlegmatic, and his mode of living had been abstemious. The right side of the body was affected; it was preceded by oppression of the chest, but not by any apoplectic attack. The parish surgeon had bled him freely, blistered the nape of the neck, emptied the bowels, and had placed him on a low diet. When Mr. Rose first saw him, he admits that he had in a *considerable* degree recovered the use of the lower extremity; still however he moved it awkwardly, his articulation was bad, and his arm he could not move in the slightest degree; he was free from any symptom of imperfect digestion. Mr. Rose commenced the treatment with a brisk mercurial purge, recommended him to adopt a nourishing diet, to take a large quantity of mustard with his food, and to endeavour to exercise his will on the affected muscles, but not to fatigue them.

On the 28th of March, he commenced the exhibition of the vomic nut powdered, in the dose of three grains, three times a day; he also *prescribed five grains of the blue pill every night, and a powder of rhubarb and magnesia every morning.* The dose of the vomic nut was gradually increased, so that on the 4th of April it amounted to fifteen grains. When he arrived to ten grains the effect of the medicine was manifest by slight twitchings of the extremities, and the sensation as if a fluid was running down the interior of the affected arm. On taking the first dose of fifteen grains, a strong convulsion of the whole body came on, affecting the paralytic side most severely: notwithstanding this effect, Mr. Rose ordered the dose to be continued for forty-eight hours longer. The mouth being affected by the blue pill, it was discontinued. On the 8th of April, he found his articulation improved, he could walk better, and appeared to be evidently improving in every respect. On the 13th the dose was increased to eighteen grains; after which he was again convulsed—this fit did not continue longer than a minute. On the 15th, after taking twenty grains of the powder three times a day, a considerable alteration took place for the better, being able to raise the affected arm three or four inches high; the dose was now increased to twenty-three grains. On the 19th the improvement was rapid, being able to raise the affected hand nearly to his mouth. On the following day the dose was further increased to twenty-six grains three times a day. On the 20th the improvement was still more evident. On the 29th he complained of having been much affected with giddiness, and his lower extremities with such spasms that he could not walk alone. The medicine was in consequence given only twice a day; on the 6th of May he appeared to be stationary. On the 9th the dose was increased to twenty-seven and a half grains twice a day. On the 14th Mr. Rose found him considerably better. On the 18th, he was able to blow his fire with the affected hand. The dose was now increased to thirty grains, on the 20th he was evidently getting better. On the 27th he complained of having been faint and having no appetite, and being very nervous. Mr. Rose ordered the powders to be omitted, and an infusion of cascarrilla to be taken two or three times a day, and a grain of opium at bed time, to allay the pain in his extremities, which he said prevented sleep. On the 30th he was better. Mr. Rose now ordered a dose of pills to be taken three times a day, composed of the gum pill, volatile sal ammoniac, and ammoniated iron. He continued to improve to the 10th of June, when he ordered the powdered vomic nut to be repeated in the dose of twenty-three grains twice a day. From the 13th to the 20th he took twenty-six grains twice a day. This medicine he continued to the 11th of July, when he again complained of faintness, flutterings, and palpitation of the heart, in consequence of which, the powder was omitted. On the 14th, the faintness, &c. had left him, and he had more power of using the affected limbs. The vomic nut producing effects of too serious an aspect, it was entirely abandoned. The bowels were well emptied by calomel and jalap, and the pills of volatile ammonia, &c. were repeated. On the 24th of August, the patient had evidently gained ground; but, complaining of a sense of fulness about the head, twelve ounces of blood

were taken from the arm. On the following week, he said he was lighter for the bleeding, but in no other respect better. On the 3d of November he was much better, and expressed a hope that he should be able to go to work in the spring.—Here the case ends. The health of the patient, when he applied to Mr. Rose, it is admitted, was in an improving state; and we think the progress he afterwards made, is more to be attributed to the blue pill than to the vomic nut. So would say Mr. Abernethy.

In the case of palsy, in which the vomic nut proved unsuccessful, the disease was the sequel of the painter's colic. He was only thirty years of age, of a thin spare habit, and *sanguiferous* temperament. He was affected with great diminution of the power of extending the thumb and fingers, and of moving the wrist. Mr. Rose commenced the vomic nut, by exhibiting five grains three times a day. Its convulsive effects were evident, as in the preceding case, when the dose was increased to ten grains. Mr. Rose, however, continued to augment the dose gradually, till it arrived to twenty-five grains, when it manifested a convulsive effect on the muscles of the jaw, tongue, and lower extremities. The dose was gradually increased, till it amounted to thirty grains twice a day, when it produced the convulsive effects daily, without any *beneficial* result. Mr. Rose then gave the watery extract of the nut a trial, which was attended with no good effect. The experiments of Mr. Rose certainly shew the powers of a system, even when affected with palsy, possesses, of resisting the baneful influence of a powerful poison. When Dr. Granville was in Paris, he sent some cases of palsy, in which the vomic nut had been administered in large doses, with the most decided advantage, to be published in the Medical Journals of this country. When we visited Paris about nine months after the cases appeared in print, we were told that the use of the remedy had been entirely abandoned for *some months*, even by those who had been most warm in its praise; and on further inquiry, we learnt that the article had been administered to paralytic and rheumatic subjects, in the dose of forty grains, and that it had so effectually subdued the diseases for which it was exhibited, that the patients, the following day, left their beds for the dead house!! In a country, where bigotry and superstition are encouraged as a virtue, the causes of sudden death are not investigated. The unfortunate patients having obtained absolution of their sins, willingly resign themselves to the care of a doctor, whom they consider a mere instrument in the hands of the great Disposer of Events, and if the result be unfavourable, they calmly submit, from a conviction that "there is a cherub sits up aloft, waiting the life of poor Jack."

OXALIC ACID.—Another case of the fatal effects of this acid lately occurred in Portsea. A Mrs. Prouse, from its resemblance to the Epsom salt, requiring an aperient medicine, took about half an ounce, dissolved in water. Soon after she swallowed the dose, she was seized with a violent pain in the stomach. The attendance of Mr. Williams, an able surgeon of the place, was requested, who, although he made every possible haste, found her dead. On opening the body the same evening, he found the stomach and intestines highly inflamed,

and the internal coat of the former entirely disorganised. A coroner's inquest was held, and the following verdict was returned by the jury—
“*Death by the oxalic acid taken in mistake for salts.*”

So generally used is this acid for cleaning boot-tops, and removing stains from linen, that it is sold almost by every druggist and grocer in the country, under the name of Acid of Sugar. In order to prevent the possibility of such serious mistakes, we recommend venders of the article to sell a saturated solution of it instead of the crystals, which could not possibly be mistaken for salts. It should also be always sold with a title of Poison pasted on the bottle, that it might not be mistaken for any thing else.

BLEEDING BY LEECHES.—Surgeon White has published a case of loss of blood from the puncture of a leech, which lately terminated the life of a female child, two years and a half old. A gland under the angle of the jaw being much inflamed, the mother, by the advice of her apothecary, applied a leech to the part, and, after it had done its duty, placed over it a warm poultice to encourage the bleeding, and put her to bed. The following morning, the mother found the child in a most alarming state of debility. The blood had continued to flow till she was so much exhausted, that the most powerful stimulants administered by the surgeon had no effect, and before he left the room, she died. Mr. White also notices a case of excessive bleeding, from the bite of a leech, which occurred in the practice of his friend, Mr. Pritchell. On close inspection, he found the blood flowed from an artery, which, probably, was only partially divided. Mr. White, “on the spur of the moment,” had recourse to the method employed by farriers, after opening the vein of a horse, by passing a needle through the edges of the puncture, and afterwards passing round it some common thread, so as to compress the puncture, and, of course, the injured artery. The excessive escape of blood from the bite of a leech, Surgeon Brodie would attribute to some peculiar delicate structure of the arterial system. Since the establishment of peace between this country and France, the importation of leeches has been so very considerable, as to reduce the price of the English leech from 7*l.* per hundred to 15*s.* The puncture of the French leech is much larger and deeper than that of the English leech, and this circumstance may account for the many cases of excessive loss of blood from the bites of leeches, which have lately occurred in London. It is not uncommon for an obstinate erysipelatous inflammation to follow the application of the French leech, which, in some instances, has been so violent and extensive, as to endanger the lives of the patients. The French leech differs from the English in the skin of the belly, being of a yellowish hue, and being larger in size. It resembles the horse-leech of this country.

CROUP.—Surgeon Leese has communicated to Dr. Uwins a case of this disease, which he speedily cured by a prompt and bold practice. The subject was only nine months old. The symptoms ran high; the pulse 150. Mr. L. immediately ordered ten leeches to be applied over the windpipe, a mixture of emetic tartar, a tepid bath every three hours, and a fomentation to the throat every hour. The good effect of this judicious treatment was evident in a few hours, and, before the

following morning, the symptoms which threatened the immediate extinction of life, had subsided. On this case, Mr. Leese remarks, "I am decidedly of opinion, that, had there been any delay in the application of the remedies, or want of entire confidence and active co-operation on the part of the parents, and others of the family, the disease would have terminated fatally. Mr. Leese takes the opportunity to recommend the employment of persons who are in the habit of providing and applying leeches, in the due application of which, professional gentlemen are too frequently disappointed. When a specified number is sent for, the application is attempted by an inexperienced person, or they may be inert. In the case above related, the woman who was sent to procure them, brought a greater number than was required to be applied, so that if some did not readily bite, others were at hand. The patient was, in consequence, not subjected to unnecessary fatigue and delay, which, in such an acute case, might have endangered life.

WEN.—Professor Walter, of the university of Landshed, has published a case of wen, in which he applied ligatures to the principal nutrient arteries with success. The tumour was so large, as to impede both deglutition and respiration. The professor first made an incision an inch and a half in length, at the point where the left superior thyroideal artery was discovered to pulsate. By a second incision cautiously performed, he exposed the vessel, and, after securing several small arteries, he applied a ligature to it. After a fortnight had elapsed, the size of the left portion of the tumour was reduced one third. He soon afterwards applied a ligature to the superior thyroid artery of the opposite side. This operation, in consequence of the vessel being enveloped by the enlarged gland, occupied three quarters of an hour. In about a month, the patient left the hospital, when he was able to swallow with facility. Two years afterwards, the professor was informed that the man had entered the army. Mr. Abernethy, in his *Surgical Lectures*, recommended this operation for wen twenty years ago; but we believe he never performed it. Some years since, the experiment was made in one of our hospitals; but, in consequence of a secondary hemorrhage, it failed.

GALVANISM.—For the following communications, illustrating the beneficial effects of this much-neglected remedy, in cases of nervous debility, torpor of the liver, &c. we are indebted to the liberality of Mr. La Beaume.

From the Rev. Claudius Martyn to Mr. La Beaume.

My dear Sir,

My best acknowledgments are due to you for your's of the 2d instant. The high professional abilities you have evinced to the most intelligent part of the public, and the sound christian principles by which I am persuaded you are actuated in applying those abilities and principles to practice, are above any eulogium of mine. I think you have repelled the dirt that was cast upon you admirably well, as you chose not to treat the assault with silent contempt. If the aspersions of such assailants excite any attention from the discerning and virtuous part of the public, the scale is sure to rise on the right side. I have no doubt, but

all your endeared patients, whom I have conversed with during my attendances, are ready to come forward and acknowledge the essential benefits they have derived from your operations. As to my own case, viz. *sciatica*, and *torpor of the liver*, it is a duty I owe both to you and to society to set forth such details as you may judge worth inserting amongst others; though I have already communicated my own and other important cases of cure, on every occasion, by letters into different parts of the country, and verbally near my own residence, having met with many persons like myself, who had not so much as heard of you. You cannot but recollect the cause of my first interview with you was, that I accidentally mentioned to Mr. Henry's brother that I was going to inquire after a remedy strongly recommended to me for what was termed a rheumatic gout, under which I had suffered for many years, when that gentleman put into my hands your traduced pamphlet, accompanied with an assurance that Mr. H. had been cured by the author. This induced me to call upon you immediately. During my fortnight's visits for the galvanic operations, I accompanied in the stage many very respectable neighbours, one gentleman in particular almost every time, who observed the progress I made, for at the beginning of my attendances I had great difficulty in climbing the steps of the coach: one day in particular, the passengers were so obliging as to exert their strength in assisting the coachman to raise me. I had reason to believe, that a few more galvanic operations alone might have perfectly relieved me of the *sciatica*, had it not been for the constitutional difficulty I have generally experienced of exciting perspiration in the usual way, whenever I have taken cold: you, therefore, consider it expedient to use the aid of the air-pump vapour bath, to produce that salutary discharge of which I have felt the benefit ever since, for I feel to this day a genial glow and gentle perspiration never known to me before. Had the fine dry weather continued to permit me to persevere in attending your operations, I have no reason to doubt but a completer cure might have been effected. My *sciatica*, however, has left me; my liver and bowels perform their functions, and I am now as well as I can expect to be, on just approaching the age of man. That Providence may continue to shower down his choicest blessing upon you and your's, is the ardent wish of your's, faithfully,
No. 15, Winchester-Row, New-Road,
December 4, 1818.

C. MARTYN.

From Mr. George Henry to Mr. La Beaume.

Sir,—I think it is a duty I owe to mankind in general, and to yourself in particular, to make known the perfect cure I have received from your galvanic treatment in my case, which is as follows:—From Christmas 1817, I was afflicted with excruciating pains in my right arm, from my shoulders down to the wrist, attended with an oppression on my chest, total loss of appetite, costiveness, and a sense of suffocation on falling asleep. I looked at my bed with horror, could not lay down to rest, and was obliged night after night to walk about in my chamber, or sit up in the greatest pain and misery. After taking various medicines, I was advised by my doctors to go to Bath, as

they pronounced my complaint to be an inveterate rheumatic gout.

In this hopeless state I went to Bath, at the middle of last May, and continued there till the latter end of last June. I was pumped on, I bathed, I drank the waters, and got considerably worse, and came home with my arm contracted, and in greater pain than ever, so that I could not without the greatest difficulty raise my arm to my mouth. I continued in this miserable condition, suffering severely in my stomach, bowels, shoulder, and arms, till the middle of July last, when I had the happiness of hearing of you. On my first interview with you, I told you that I had consulted several medical gentlemen, and had also resorted to quack medicines without any benefit whatever; and, from the symptoms of my disease, you expressed an opinion, that my disorder was occasioned by an obstruction of bile and a torpid state of the liver, which so seriously affected my stomach and bowels, disordered my breathing, and almost destroyed the use of my arm. Though I could hardly believe that this was my complaint, as it was never once hinted to me by any of the faculty I had consulted, yet I submitted to your judgment, and you administered galvanism to me accordingly. On my first and second visit I felt myself somewhat better; but after the third application, I evacuated an immense quantity of bile, and was immediately relieved, and that to an astonishing degree, from my internal complaints, and in about five weeks I was not only restored to perfect health, but by the use of the air-pump vapour-bath which you administered to me, I also recovered the use of my arm. It will afford you pleasure to know, that I can now eat and drink with a keen appetite, enjoying refreshing sleep without the dread of sudden and alarming spasms. In short, I feel myself better in health, strength, and spirits, than I have been for these thirty years past. This, Sir, is the truth which I shall ever feel happy to communicate to any person you may refer to me, and I shall be glad to have my case published.

I am, Sir,

With gratitude for your particular attention and kindness,

Your humble servant,

9, *Oxford Chapel Place, Cavendish-Square,*
December 13, 1818.

GEORGE HENRY.

TIC DOLOUREUX.—We have met with a case of this most distressing disease, of long standing and great inveteracy, in which the following treatment was productive of the most decided benefit:

Take of Pale Peruvian Bark, finely powdered - 6 drachms.

Hemlock Leaves, ditto - - - - - 1 drachm.

Prussic Acid - - - - - 2 drachms.

Mix well together in a glass mortar, and divide into fourteen parts;—one to be taken three times a day, in a wine-glass of camphorated julep.

Take of Distilled Water of Peach Leaves - - 4 ounces.

Prussic Acid - - - - - ½ ounce.

Mix.—To be applied to the side of the face affected, as a lotion, by means of soft old linen, two or three times a day.

PULMONARY CONSUMPTION.—The Prussic acid has been

administered in this disease with important advantage. In one case, it so effectually allayed the morbid irritation of the lungs, that the patient, for a few days, was almost free from any phthisical symptoms. The following form has been found most beneficial :

Take of Infusion of Roses	- - - - -	4 ounces.
Rose-water	- - - - -	2 ounces.
Prussic Acid	- - - - -	3 drachms.
Powdered Gum Arabic	- - - - -	3 drachms.
Syrup of Tolu	- - - - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.

Mix.—Two or three table-spoonsful to be taken three times a-day.

As the Prussic acid is becoming a favourite remedy with many practitioners, in cases of inflammatory excitement of nerves, a formula for making it should be fixed upon by the profession, in order that it may be obtained of a certain strength. At present, it is kept by chemists more or less diluted; and for chemical experiments, it is sold in so concentrated a state, that a few drops taken into the stomach, might produce serious effects.

The water of the bitter almond, noticed in our last number, which contains a small proportion of Prussic acid, is made by distilling the bitter almond cake (after the expression of the oil) in water. From six pounds of the cake, and four gallons of water, a gallon may be drawn. The oil sold under the name of oil of sweet almonds, being obtained from the bitter almond; the cake may be procured at the cheap rate of twopence a pound.

The distilled water of peach leaves is, by some practitioners, preferred to that of the bitter almond, on account of its containing a greater proportion of the Prussic acid, and being more pleasant to the palate.

We hope this report of the efficacy of the Prussic acid, will induce our medical subscribers to give it a fair trial in pulmonary consumption; being convinced, from the effects we have witnessed, in this complaint, that it is more entitled to attention than any remedy that has been suggested.

MORBID IRRITATION OF THE BLADDER.—For a cure of this disease, attended with a frequent urgency to evacuate the bladder, a considerable discharge of mucus, &c. Dr. Baillie prescribed the following composition.

Take of Peppermint Water	- - - - -	12 drachms.
Powdered leaves of the Bear's Whortleberry	- - - - -	15 grains.
Ditto Gum Arabic	- - - - -	12 grains.
Extract of Henbane	- - - - -	4 grains.

Mix.—To be taken twice a-day.

HOSPITAL PRACTICE.—The following case of extraordinary attention and skill of Mr. Wheeler, apothecary to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, we think proper to record, as a specimen of hospital practice, and as meriting a serious investigation :

An inquisition was taken on Thursday, the 8th of January, 1819, at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, before T. Shelton, Esq. Coroner for the City of London, on the body of a young man, named Richard Harroll, aged 21 years, who, in a fit of temporary delirium, brought on by the most abject poverty, attempted to put an end to his existence, by cut-

ting his throat with a penknife; but not effecting his purpose, he cut it in two places with a razor.

Mr. Thomas Ringrose stated, that the deceased lived at the house of Mrs. Shackford, in Benjamin-street, Clerkenwell. He was a jeweller by trade; witness lived in the same house, and knew that the deceased had recently been much distressed for want of employ: in fact, some days he had not had food to eat. On Sunday last, about two o'clock in the day, witness heard a doleful groaning, and stifled cries; witness' son said, "Father, I think Mr. Harroll is dying." Witness went up to the deceased's bed-room door (he having kept his bed for four days previously), with a person named Dovey, who endeavoured to open it, but found it fastened on the inside. Dovey looked through the key-hole, and saw the deceased lying on the bed, with his throat and chin badly cut. He informed witness of the circumstance, and he broke open the door; upon approaching the bed, they found the deceased lying on his back, with the razor sticking in his throat, which the witness took out of the wound. Witness believed the blade of the knife was completely buried inside the deceased's throat when he saw it. A pen-knife, very bloody, lay on the bed, and there were cuts in the deceased's throat, which appeared to have been inflicted with the knife. Witness sent for a surgeon, who advised the deceased to be removed to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. The deceased was employed by a relation, some few months ago, and had purchased articles of furniture, &c. and intended to have been married; but his relation having heard of it, discharged him from his service, and since that time, he had been unable to get employ sufficient to enable him to subsist. For the week prior to his cutting his throat, he was deranged in his intellects, and witness was of opinion, the derangement was caused by his sufferings from poverty, and he ate nothing, but was supported by taking a little tea or gruel. The female to whom he was to have been married, came to see the deceased, on the morning that he cut his throat, and had taken leave of him only two or three minutes when he committed the act.

Mr. James Dovey corroborated the above evidence.

Mr. Charles West Wheeler, assistant to his father, the apothecary of St. Bartholomew's Hospital stated, that he had attended the deceased *nearly* every day since he was brought to the hospital. The wounds in his throat did not in the least hasten his death. Witness could not say what was the cause of the deceased's death; sometimes the deceased appeared to be deranged *and* like a maniac; at another time he appeared to be labouring under fever only. Witness could not say what was the complaint the deceased was afflicted with. He was satisfied the witnesses who said the blade of the razor was completely buried in the wound in the deceased's throat must have made a mistake. The deceased's throat was nearly well before he died. Witness thought his father could explain the treatment the deceased received better than he could.

Mr. Wheeler, senior, apothecary to the hospital, stated, that he attended the deceased almost daily; his symptoms were very *changeable*; sometimes witness believed the deceased was a *maniac*, as he was

capable of speaking, but *refused* to answer a single question; sometimes his disorder appeared to be *fever ONLY*, his pulse was then 130, and upwards, a minute. Witness administered *such things* as HE thought proper. He died on Wednesday morning.

Examined by a jurymen.—Mr. Wheeler did not know the deceased's disorder *positively*; but *thought* it typhus fever!!

Coroner: How did you treat the deceased for a typhus fever—in the same way as you would a maniac?—Witness treated the deceased with such medicines as HE considered proper to counteract the *apparent symptoms generally*; but his disorder seemed of a *doubtful* kind!!

Jurymen: Then it would have been proper to have called in a *physician*. I suppose you did so?—Witness did not: he did not think it *necessary*: HE and his SON had done every thing that *human skill* could accomplish!!

Jurymen: I always understood that physicians attended at the hospitals for the purpose of giving their opinion in doubtful cases. This you say was a critical case; and I want to know why a physician was not called in to him? Pray how often does a physician visit the hospital?—Witness *believed* there was a physician in attendance every day; but he was sure that *no man* could have done more for the deceased than had been done.

Jurymen: Then it is of no use having physicians at all; for I should be glad to know, to what case you would call in a physician, if not in such a one as the present?—Witness could only say that *every* attention had been paid to the deceased, and every thing that skill could do for him had been done.

Jurymen: I and some of my brother jurymen are of opinion that if a physician had been called in (and we think this case most imperatively demanded it), that he might have discovered the deceased's disorder.

Witness: I have for nearly fifty years practised *physic*, and I can say that I know nothing more could have been done for the deceased than was performed. It was impossible for any human being to have discovered his complaint; I have opened the body and found *several ulcers* in the intestines,—which, no doubt, caused his death.

Jurymen.—In a *doubtful* case, in future, I hope a physician will be called in. I must say that there was great neglect that it was not done in the present case.

The Coroner summed up, and said, that, from the evidence of Mr. Wheeler, the deceased must have died, not from the act he committed, but from the disease in his intestines. He could not help saying, that it would have been more satisfactory, and more correct had a physician's attention been called to this case; and in future, in doubtful cases, he hoped it would be done.

The Jury were unanimously of opinion that a physician's advice was requisite in this case, and returned a verdict of "Died by the Visitation of God."

Thus, it appears, that although the man had partially divided the wind-pipe, no surgical aid was called in; and, although this learned apothecary, who had been in the practice of physick fifty years, could not discover the nature of the disease, he did not think proper to *trouble* the hospital physicians to see the patient. The apothecary saw him

one day, and his son another day!! At one time he thought the man was a maniac, at another that his disease was typhus, and, on dissection, he discovered that it was ulceration of the intestines!! Now, had a surgeon been called, might not the disease of the intestines have been ascertained? As to ulceration of the intestines, it does not appear the unfortunate patient ever complained of his bowels, and if ulceration existed, of what was it the consequence? Was it the effect of inflammation, corrosive medicine, or had he swallowed the razor with which he made an incision into the wind-pipe? The examination was even made by Mr. Wheeler, so that this man is not only apothecary, but physician and surgeon to the hospital!! The duty of an hospital apothecary is, to compound the prescriptions of the physicians and surgeons, and to apprise the medical officers, when their assistance is *particularly* required. With the diseases of the patients he has nothing to do. They are the province of the physicians. This instance of apparent neglect of duty in Mr. Wheeler, we hope will not escape the investigation of the Governors.

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION OF A HUMAN BODY.—

A remarkable case of spontaneous combustion of a human being, lately occurred in Paris. The subject (a female) had long been in the habit of taking brandy to an excess. Her husband on returning home found her in a dying state. On examining the body after dissolution, it exhibited the appearance of having been burnt. The apparel being entire, and no fire in the house, the physicians who were called in attributed her death to spontaneous combustion. The transactions of the Royal Society of London, present a similar instance of spontaneous ignition of a human body which occurred at Ipswich, and in the *Journal de Physique* of Paris, many cases not less extraordinary are recorded. The subjects were notorious drunkards.

MISS MAC AVOY.—Dr. James Thompson has favored us with a perusal of a letter he recently received from Dr. Renwick of Liverpool, respecting this young woman, whose powers of ascertaining colours, and of reading small print by her fingers, we have noticed on the authority of this respectable physician in some of our back numbers.—By this letter, it appears that Miss Mac Avoy has been seriously indisposed since we gave our last report of her, and that she has lost her extraordinary powers of touch. At this time she has an extensive abscess on one side of her chest, on which a slight pressure produces fainting and sometimes convulsions, from which it is probable that it has an internal communication. She has also an abscess over the lower part of the lumbar vertebræ and sacrum, attended with symptoms of disease of the bones. Dr. Renwick positively asserts that he is perfectly convinced that no deception has been practised either by herself or her attendants, and that she really did possess the extraordinary powers which have been ascribed to her by every *unprejudiced* person who saw her when she was in health. Her eyes at the time she exhibited her powers were closed by adhesive plaster, so effectually, that even had she not been blind, she could not possibly have seen any thing. The Doctor concludes his letter with the following experiment, which he made in order to ascertain if she was really blind. Whilst he was engaged in a conversation with her, he took a pistol out of his pocket, and

with a determined air presented it at her when her eyes were directed towards him. He repeated this experiment twice more in different directions. No alteration took place in a single feature, not a muscle was excited into action, and he believes she is unconscious at this moment, that a pistol was presented at her. The Doctor repeated the experiment, on his return home, to a friend who happened to be there, who (not being blind) was so alarmed that he nearly fell off the chair on which he was seated. This experiment satisfactorily proves, in the opinion of Dr. Renwick, that Miss Mac Avoy has not the power of seeing, even when the eye-lids are not closed.

LIVING BIOGRAPHY.—Messrs. Sherwood and Co. have published a second edition of Biographical Memoirs, literary and critical, of the most eminent physicians and surgeons of England, with the important addition of an extemporaneous pharmacopœia; being a choice collection of the prescriptions of the leading physicians and surgeons. The prescriptions are all modern, and being neat and chemical, will prove highly useful to physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries in general. The diseases for which they were given are specified, and directions for their exhibition subjoined.—

DEAFNESS.—Sirs,—Feeling that the great object of professional labours should be to afford relief to our fellow mortals, suffering under privation of health, or any peculiar sense, I consider it a duty to offer some few cautions, which if attended to, may prevent many from experiencing that species of deafness distinguished too generally by the term nervous, with a view to make these observations more extensively useful, I present them for insertion in your popular work, in consequence of its being read by so large a number of private families, who never see a medical work of any other description.

The cases denominated nervous deafness, in most instances, present to a superficial observer, no appearance of organic derangement, or defect; the passage of the ear is deficient in the natural secretion of cerumen, or if there is a small quantity, it is of a scurfy laminated nature, or else very glutinous in its consistence, the membrane, vulgarly called the drum of the ear, is in these cases very dry, and insensible to the vibration occasioned by sounds, and frequently the patient complains of distressing noises in the head.

On close examination into the origin of many cases of this nature, the complaint is found to derive from sudden changes of temperature, which producing what is commonly called a cold, the inner passages of the ear, or eustachian tubes, become obstructed by mucus, which left to itself inspissates, and produces deafness of various degrees according to the obstruction; but it is not cold alone that occasions this obstruction, as other causes produce the same effect, amongst these may be reckoned all irregularity or excess in point of diet, want of exercise, &c. which occasioning bilious affections, abundance of humours are driven to the head.

From repeated experience, and observation, I am every day more satisfied of the truth of those opinions formerly published in your work, and my essay, namely, that the ablution of new born infants, particularly the head, is highly injudicious, and to that cause many of the deaf and dumb owe their misfortune. In further confirmation

of this, I beg to state the following case : I have been consulted through a most respectable surgeon, on behalf of a young woman, who has been almost totally deprived of hearing, in consequence of repeatedly washing her head ; she consulted a medical gentleman, who perforated the membranes of her ears ; much pain resulted from the operation, which deprived her of what little hearing she had remaining, and in the opinion of the surgeon who sent her to me (not the one who performed the operation), as well as myself, it is now nearly a hopeless case.

I have had lately a large proportion of cases of deafness arising from washing the head: when they occur in children, or very young persons, an abandonment of the custom, with proper remedies, generally prove successful in a short time.

As far as regards personal cleanliness this custom is unnecessary, and being unsafe should not be resorted to.

It will not be possible within the limits of this paper, to enter into a minute description of each particular species of case, and it will be still less useful to mention the curative process ; I shall therefore merely recommend that no heating or acrimonious preparations be resorted to, which in no instance will render benefit, but more often lay the foundation of inflammatory diseases, painful to the patient, and tedious in their cure. I did hope no surgeon would have resorted to the operation of perforating the membrane, which has been abandoned by enlightened practitioners, after having proved not only useless but injurious, but as some pertinaciously adhere to error, it remains with patients to resist any attempts of the kind, which may render them incurable ; and on no account to permit the introduction of a probe into their ears, under the idea of examining the state of them, such means of examination being totally useless, unnecessary, and often dangerous.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. WRIGHT,

Surgeon and surgeon aurist to her late Majesty.

10, Bolsover Street, Cavendish Square, Jan. 17, 1819.

GENTLEMEN.—I know not if I may presume to request the favour of your inserting in your valuable *Gazette of Health*, the following simple remedy for deafness, which I have known in three or four cases to prove highly beneficial to those persons who have laboured under this unpleasant deprivation of one of the blessings of the Almighty.

I do not mean to state that the following remedy will answer in all cases of deafness, where the tympanum is injured either by accident or violence, or from a deficiency in secretion of wax, or it may be possible from several other causes ; but this I mean to state, that persons who have laboured under this affliction for many years, have recovered their hearing, if not completely, at least in a very considerable degree, and in this enlightened age, when the laudable thirst, and insatiable desire of searching into the depths of nature, for the purposes of developing her secrets and unfolding her mysteries, become so general, I hope I may be pardoned for picking up the salt from the surface of the earth instead of digging and diving deep into the bowels of it. You will pardon this prolixity, but I conceived it in some measure necessary when we consider that nothing under the name of a medicine can be esteemed worthy either of the attention or trial of

the generality of mankind, which is not a compound of *uncommon* and expensive drugs, with names as *uncommon*, and virtues ascribed to them equally *uncommon*, and it not unfrequently happens that the only thing common to them, is their high price. Far be it from me to insinuate malicious reflections on any person, but do we not see it verified every year, every month, every week, every day, every hour; that he who can give the highest sounding titles, epithets, and names, the longest words, and shortest sense, the most bombastic eulogiums, and rhodomontades, is certain of gaining the greatest applause and greatest purses too? Witness the undeserving merit ascribed to many of our quack medicines, which owe their celebrity and sale, more to the incomprehensibility and length of the words by which they are called, than to the virtues for which they are acknowledged; in the same manner as the country clown despised and condemned the sermons of a very eminent divine, because they were not interlarded with learned Latin and Greek quotations, and was not contented with plain sound sense. "We pay for the best," says he, "and we ought to have the best, whether we understand it or not." How little do such persons consider the truth of Shakspeare's observation on this head:

From lowest place when virtuous things proceed,
The place is dignified by the doer's deed:
Where great additions swell, and virtue none,
It is a dropsied honour: good alone
Is good, without a name; vileness is so:
The property by what it is should go,
Not by the title.

It is not my intention to condemn any medicine on account of its name, but I mean to state that there are thousands of articles which appear valuable for their name, and it not unfrequently happens that many valuable medicines do not come into general repute, because their names are not understood; of these it is possible we may say with the poet *Quæ rara chara*, but the proprietors have the consolation of comforting themselves with this reflection, *Rara juvant—Quod facile est vile est. Copia tollit amorem.—Voluptates commendat rarior usus.*

Let no one despise the following simple remedy till he has laboured under the disease, and made application without receiving benefit. Take as much bay salt as will lay on a sixpence, and dissolve it in a teaspoonful of warm water; when dissolved pour half of the solution into the affected ear, laying the head on a table for ten minutes; this is best applied when going to bed. Take a small piece of coarse brown paper doubled, which warm, and lay on the ear; continue this for a fortnight, and the hearing will be restored.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

CHEMICUS.

I shall feel obliged to any of your medical correspondents to account for persons gaping, and why it should be catching.
Exmouth Street, December 26, 1818.

VARIOLOID DISEASE.—In our last Number, we have noticed an eruptive disease, which for some time has prevailed in Derby, and to which DR. BENT, a physician of great candour and acute observa-

tion, residing in that town, has given the name of *varioid*. The description the Doctor gave of his supposed new disease, confused as it was, has induced a Dr. Thomson to fancy that it has appeared at Lanark. The Doctor's account of its appearance, &c. being concise, we shall give it in his own words.

"At Mr. Owen's mills, through the obliging attention of Mr. Gibson, who has the medical charge there, I had an opportunity of seeing 118 cases of young persons affected with this disease. In its general appearances it bore a very striking resemblance to that which I have had occasion to see in Edinburgh, though, on the whole, it appeared to me to have a character considerably milder. Four only of those affected with it had previously passed through small-pox: in two of these the disease was mild, but in the other two severe. Eighty-two had this disease after having passed through the cow-pox. In a few of these, it might be said to be severe; but in by far the greater number it was extremely mild, and exhibited the most convincing proofs of the efficacy of cow-pox in modifying small-pox. Thirty-two had the disease without having passed through either cow-pock or small-pox; and, what appeared to me remarkable, it had proved fatal only in one person of this class. Several, however, had been in imminent danger, and their recoveries may be tedious. Five or six of this class, as well as a considerable number of those who had previously passed through cow-pock, had the disease in a form so slight, as to agree with the descriptions which have been given of chicken-pox rather than small-pox. Several individuals had experienced a severe variolous fever, without any eruption having appeared; while others had the eruption, with little or no fever. The eruption itself varied in quantity, from one pustule to a number that was in some instances uncountable. By a letter which I received last evening from Mr. Gibson, I learn that the disease is still on the increase. One more instance has occurred of its having attacked a boy who had previously passed through small-pox; and one where it has attacked, for the second time, a lad who had previously passed through the cow-pock. In some of those who have neither undergone cow-pock nor small-pox, the disease continues, Mr. Gibson informs me, to exhibit the symptoms which have been regarded as characteristic of chicken-pox."

WINES.—Sirs,—The following may possibly prove of service to your correspondent, page 1120, and many of your readers, and with that view I send it.

Bristol, Dec. 7, 1818.

C. J. P.

Wines on the fret should be racked, if their own lee indicates decay they should be racked on the sound lee of another wine of similar, but stronger quality, to protract their decline; if this be done at an early period, it may renovate the sick wine; on these occasions giving the sick wine a cooler place, will retard its progress to acidity; if convenient such wines should be forced and bottled. Previous to bottling, or rather at the forcing, give it one, two or three table spoonsful of calcined gypsum finely pulverized. This will check its tendency to acidity without exciting much intumescence, without injuring the colour of the red wine, and without retarding its coating to the bottle, which it rather promotes. The proper forcing for red wines are, the

whites of ten or twelve eggs, beat up with one or two tea-spoonsful of salt per hogshead, and well worked into the wine with a forcing rod; the gypsum should be first boiled in a little water. Your readers will doubtless perceive this is intended to check the acetous process. To retard the vinous, I understand the French are in the habit of burning sulphur immediately under the cask, and possibly the sulphuric acid evolved by the combustion, may check its progress and prevent the necessity of an *admixture*.

Orange wine of a superior kind may be made with 2lbs. of clayed sugar, and 1lb. of Malaga raisins to each gallon of water, to which add the juice and peel of an orange, and to every 100 gallons of fluid 4lbs. of Rhenish tartar, 2lbs. of honey, and 1lb. of Malaga raisins, with a large orange juice and peel to every gallon of water, and 4lbs. of Rhenish tartar to every 100 gallons fluid, will make an orange wine still superior to the former. Steeping and pressing the fruit, and expending the tartar in setting, raising, and cutting the backs; the orange peel and juice are not to be added until the last stage of fermentation, that is on cutting; they will possess infinitely more vinosity than the ordinary orange wines, indeed nearly as much as the juice of the vine. Lemon wine equally delicious may be made in a similar manner, both these wines, as they advance in age, lose much of the grosser part of the orange and lemon flavour; one approaches the bergamot and the other to a fine citron, and become fragrant as they advance in years, and they will be more improved if treacle be used, divested of its colour and burnt flavour.

QUACKERY.—Sir,—When I was at Bristol, during the last fair, that city was placarded, and bills were distributed, from a man of the name of William Rowden, an axle-tree maker, or carpenter, of Fisherton Auger, near Salisbury, but who had recently undertaken, to cure deafness; one of which bills having been delivered to me, I wrapped some papers up in it, whereby it has been saved, and having occasion frequently to look at these papers, some of the names therein mentioned became familiar to my memory. Now, Sir, without losing my time and your's by any examination of the merits of this William Rowden, I wish to point out that this *ci-devant* carpenter, in the bill now in my possession, claims the merit of curing Mr. Bane, of Castle Combe; Master White, of Enford, Devizes; and Mr. Farody, of Newport, Isle of Wight; which are also claimed by Home and Co. the newly set up "*Surgeons and Aurists, M.R.C.*" Are the public, therefore, to understand, that this carpenter is one of the *Company*; and, probably, having been employed to repair some of the royal carriages, such as a baggage-waggon, &c. he considers himself a *most royal carpenter*; or do Home and Co. intend to dispute with this carpenter the great merit of curing these people, who, if we may judge from other cases cited, are of a description easy to be imposed upon, or to be deceived in regard to "*M.R.C.*" which they might ignorantly mistake for Members of the Royal College, to which, if this *company* have any pretensions, they need not resort to initials,

I am, Sir, your's, &c.

A CONSTANT READER.

London, January 6th, 1819.

Whenever persons who attempt to practise, in any of the professional departments of medicine or surgery, are obliged to resort to the plan of citing instances of cures in common cases, it plainly tells, that they are in their general treatment unsuccessful, and therefore determine to make the most they can of any successful case. As our correspondent properly observes, we shall not lose our time by any comments on the abilities of either Home and Co. or Wm. Rowden; the public will form their own opinion of the connexion, and appreciate their talents accordingly.

It is a sort of fashion to form ostensible or hidden partnerships in this department; probably one brings impudence without ability into the concern, and the other ability without impudence; as an instance—A professional correspondent expresses his surprise, that Mr. Stevenson should take so much merit to himself for curing a duke's son, as to cause notice of it to be promulgated to the world through the public prints, in the following words:—"The Duke of Wellington's son, Lord Charles Wellesley, having perfectly recovered his hearing under the care of Mr. Stevenson, is again returned to Eton school."—Now we see nothing very wonderful in this, for we know that cases of deafness in young persons are more easily cured than in adults, and are performed every day by less assuming men. However, on referring to our 19th Number, we find this mode of puffing is not at all new to Mr. Stevenson, though in speaking of himself, he has now modestly abandoned the title of "*Squire*," which, in that Number, called forth the observations of our correspondent, J. L. of Bloomsbury-Square.

ARNOLD'S BALSAM OF COLTSFOOT.—The proprietor, who styles himself a chemist and apothecary, asserts that, "this preparation of coltsfoot is one of the most *safe* and *effectual* remedies, and the greatest discovery ever made in the annals of medicine, for coughs, colds, asthmas, hooping-cough, shortness of breath, and consumption. The reputation of the herb coltsfoot, from which this balsam is prepared, has been established 2000 years. To prevent impositions, the proprietor writes *his own name* on the printed directions which accompany each bottle, and without it, he assures the public, the article cannot be the *true* balsam of coltsfoot. As to the cures it has performed, they would fill volumes. There is a *considerable* saving on taking half a dozen bottles." On subjecting this great discovery to chemical examination, we find it to be composed of opium, liquorice, salt of tartar, and alcohol!!! The contents of a two and sixpenny bottle cost the benevolent proprietor three pence. Now, for consumption, difficulty of breathing, asthma, and recent cough, we have no hesitation in declaring it to be a most dangerous remedy. It may allay pain, and quiet cough, but it will assuredly increase inflammatory action, dispose the system to fever, hasten the progress of the organic disease of the lungs, in consumption; check expectoration in asthma; and by constipating the bowels, in *all* the complaints, for the certain cure of which it is recommended, may be productive of the most serious consequences. Surely, when such *potent* medicines are advertised as preparations of herbs, which in themselves are innocent, merely to deceive the unwary and ignorant, it is high time that this trade of quackery should be put under some legal restraint;—but we are told, that it produces to the legislature, thirty thousand pounds annually!! a sum equal to the Royal pin-money.

THE
GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 39.]

To MARCH 1, 1819.

[VOL. IV.]

OF DR. G. L. TUTHILL,

Physician to Bethlem Hospital and the Westminster Infirmary, late Lecturer on Chemistry, Pathology, &c. Candidate for a Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians, A.M. of the University of Cambridge, &c. &c.

AN admirer of the state of medicine as it existed upwards of two thousand years ago, and a derider of modern improvements, on reading the biographical sketch of Dr. John Latham, which appeared in our last number, very emphatically observed, "surely there is a glaring impropriety in publishing any thing in the way of biographical memoirs of a physician during his lifetime." This remark may be just in regard to a *private* individual, but in our opinion it by no means applies to a *public* character. The publicity in which a physician is professionally placed, raises him on a height for observation and criticism, and the moment he wishes to resist public opinion and inquiry, that moment he forfeits his claim to public confidence. Living biography affords a powerful incentive to the worthy, to further perfection, and to the faulty and vicious, to improvement and reformation. The man distinguished for conscientious rectitude, and who has nothing to conceal, will be friendly to such delineation, while he who is conscious of a blemish will condemn it. No set of men deserves the appellation of public characters more than physicians. Do they not pretend to be guardians of the public health, and were not the exclusive privileges granted to the College of Physicians for this truly honourable and important office? The dearest interests of society being placed under their care, it is surely proper that the public should be fully acquainted with the grounds of their claims to implicit confidence, to which, the Fellows of the College in particular, declare themselves to be entitled, in consequence of superior education. Physicians are not merely private dealers in vile lucre. The subject of their avocation is one in which the public is deeply interested, and which requires a knowledge of every branch of medicine, deliberate reflection and strict integrity; nay, so far are physicians public characters, that the licentiates of the College cannot refuse attendance on the sick at any period of the day without some satisfactory reason. No profession requires so much judgment in conducting its practice, as medicine; on the accurate discrimination and prompt exertions of the physician, does not the fate of our nearest and dearest ties depend? In the law the practitioner is regulated by the Statutes, and the art of quibbling and chicanery is a necessary qualification, in order to frustrate the machi-

VOL. IV.

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nations of unprincipled wretches, and we often find at the bar the most impudent and loquacious, are esteemed the greatest advocates. Here the wig has still its influence, and clients are not unfrequently more indebted to expressions of the pleader's countenance, although the most vacant that ever was delineated by Lavater, for a successful issue, than to his arguments, or even the justice of his cause.

“———— Clamour in the throng
Loquacious, loud, and turbulent of tongue,
Aw'd by no shame, by no respect controul'd,
In scandal busy, in reproaches bold.”

These members of the profession of the law, it may be said, possess more than any other—“a wall of brass.”

The divines of the Established Church are restricted by certain doctrines, termed sound or orthodox; but in medicine all depends on the conception the physician takes of the case, which if erroneous may prove fatal to the life of the patient. Hence erroneous doctrines in medicine, and unworthy conduct in practitioners, should be promptly and effectually exposed, and in our biographical memoirs of living physicians and surgeons this is our only object; and surely the friend of Dr. Latham, and the solicitor to the Royal College of Physicians will not deny, that it is better that one should be made the sport of the theory or false opinions of a practitioner, than thousands should fall a sacrifice to them. How many lives have been cruelly destroyed by the blind and infatuated followers of the Brunonian system? Not a pupil of that theorist but will recollect with deep regret, the numerous fatal cases which have occurred in his practice, which his experience at a later period, displays to his awakened conviction, might have been saved by a more rational treatment. We therefore assert, once for all, that by continuing to give in each subsequent number, a memoir of a medical practitioner, we are not actuated by any personal feelings towards the individual, and that our sole object is to induce practitioners to exercise the art for the good of the public, and the honour of the profession. Dr. Tuthill, the subject of the present memoir, is a graduate of the University of Cambridge, and of course one of the chosen few to whom the obsolete Charter of the London College, granted by Henry VIII. gives a preference, or in College language, “which hath accomplished all things for his form without grace.” After quitting Cambridge—this physician did not offer the University that pointed insult which many of its graduates in medicine have done, by going to Edinburgh for the purpose of acquiring a *practical* knowledge, or of seeing the diseases of which he had heard or read, but boldly settled in London, as a physician *legally* qualified to prescribe for the afflicted, and to receive the customary remuneration. The learned physician commenced his career by advertising lectures on the two most important branches of medicine, viz. chemistry and pathology. The lectures were very industriously advertised, and although he promised to elucidate the phenomena of diseases, on a knowledge of the animal economy, the doctor was not so fortunate as to obtain a class. The death of Dr. Simmonds having occasioned a vacancy of Physician to St. Luke's Hospital, Dr. Tuthill offered himself a candidate for that important appointment, and publicly declared that he had for some time paid par-

ticular attention to the diseases of the mind ! The doctor however was unsuccessful in this application, in consequence of the majority of the governors having presumed to suppose, (strange presumption indeed), that a man who had availed himself of opportunities of acquiring a knowledge of mental maladies at the different institutions in London, was better qualified to undertake the office of prescribing for them, than the man who had only read, dreamt, or formed a theory of them. So unacquainted was the learned doctor with the world, and particularly with the degree of credit to which the professions and promises of some leading characters in the city were entitled, he imagined that they really felt so great an interest in his welfare, and such an admiration of his professional abilities, that he had only to present to them proposals to establish an institution equal to that of St. Luke's Hospital, to induce them to carry it into execution, that they might have the gratification to present him with the appointment of physician to it. The learned doctor accordingly did issue proposals to that effect, in the preliminary remarks of which, he contended that insanity had increased to an alarming degree in the metropolis, within the last three years, and that it was still increasing, and the doctor's arguments carried strong presumptive evidence of the truth of his declaration. In ingenuity of argument he out-solomoned Solomon. The doctor was so certain of being enabled to carry his plan into execution, that he really asked a noble lord where the building should be erected ; who coolly replied, that he did not know a more proper place than the air ! This unexpected answer cooled the doctor's ardour. Fortunately for the doctor the office of physician to the Bethlem Hospital soon afterwards became vacant, in consequence of the dismissal of Dr. Monro, a fellow of the Royal College. Dr. Tuthill lost no time in offering himself as a candidate, but on examining the rules of the institution, the doctor had the mortification to find, that he was ineligible, none but Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians being deemed competent to the important office. The governors however not being able to discover a reason why the Fellows of the College should be better qualified than a candidate for a fellowship, or a graduate of a Scotch University, revoked the law, as illiberal and unjust, and declared all doctors of medicine to be eligible, who could produce testimonials of a sufficient residence at an university, or of having gone through the necessary discipline. The doctor accordingly renewed his application to the governors, and by dint of urgent importunities, and the indefatigable exertions of his friend Mr. Carlisle, he succeeded in obtaining a majority of one in his favour. The plan of a new establishment was then abandoned. Of the doctor's attention to the duties of his new office we have heard no complaint. He is in general very punctual to the time appointed for his attendance, but notwithstanding the great attention he professed to have paid to diseases of the mind, we do not find that he has adopted any plan of treatment, with a view to reinstate reason on her throne, and bring the rebellious brain under her controul. He marches over the wards with the apothecary, prescribing such medicines as the state of the general health may indicate. When the system is too high or plethoric, ordering venesection, purgatives and low diet, and when too low, tonics and stimulants, with a generous

diët. In practice he therefore accomplishes no more than any apothecary might effect, so that to the fund of our knowledge of insanity, or other diseases of the mind, we are fearful the doctor is not likely to contribute much. On finishing his hospital visit, he may however say he has done as much, if not more than that valiant monarch,

Who did with forty thousand men,
March up a hill and down again.

We see no reason why the treatment of insanity should be claimed by any set of men. To trace the action of the mind upon the body is the duty of every practitioner, and we do not find that those physicians who pretend to have paid particular attention to insanity, pursue any mode of treatment with which surgeons and apothecaries are not well acquainted.

The prominent characters of insanity are suspicion and timidity—the first is evinced by a rooted distrust and dislike of his nearest and dearest ties; and the second by the effect of coercion, which effectually reduces him to a state of subjection. The maniac may therefore be considered the most selfish of all characters, being entirely occupied with himself and his own interest. Under these circumstances the question is, what mode of treatment is the best to adopt with the view to reinstating reason on her throne, and to diffuse those feelings which appear concentrated on himself. If coercion be too strictly employed, the maniac becomes cunning, in order to elude it and deceive his attendants. Lenity, on the contrary, invites confidence, opens as it were the avenues of the heart, which have been contracted by his being the sole object of his own regard, and thus withdraws the unhappy sufferer from himself. A certain medium of management should therefore be adopted. It is highly necessary that a maniac should know there is a sufficient restraint over him, but at the same time the attendants should not evince even an inclination to exercise it unnecessarily, or on trifling occasions with severity. In the treatment of maniacs, the effects of medicine as directed to the morbid condition of the brain, have not been properly ascertained by the experience of sober and reflecting practitioners, and those whose time is chiefly devoted to attendance on insane people seem to consider their cases hopeless and to be satisfied in making them as a source of emolument.

By some late experiments (not conducted by maniacal doctors, as they are termed,) it appears, that evaporation kept up from the scalp, by dropping water upon it, has proved highly beneficial, by allaying irritation of the brain, and thereby rendering it subservient to reason, or capable of performing its intellectual functions; and this mode of treatment ought certainly to be pursued, for insanity, in its earliest stages, is the consequence of increased excitement of the brain, which, if allowed to exist, will occasion organic disease, that will render all attempts to cure ineffectual. After improving the general health, and by topical management, quieting the brain, we should endeavour to exercise some of the minor powers of the mind, and gradually to advance, according to the natural intellects of the patient. The first attempt, perhaps, should be to excite his attention, by exhibiting pictures of persons with whom he had been acquainted; or, if his intellects have greatly suffered, by directing his mind to the formation of the letters of the

alphabet, and to proceed to the sounds of different combinations of letters, as in the usual education of a child. If, however, the patient be capable of reading, we should exercise his mind during his lucid intervals, by explaining the structure of pieces of mechanism, which is likely to excite his curiosity, or employ his mind pleasantly. With this view, many contrivances might be employed. This digression from the memoir of Dr. Tuthill, we hope the learned Doctor will pardon. Of Dr. Tuthill's literary acquirements, he has given us no means of judging; for from his pen we have received nothing either to amuse or instruct us. His biographer could not obtain from him any account of his parents, or place of nativity; but certainly to say we have heard nothing unfavourable of him, is, in these days of quackery and imposture, no small compliment. His biographer states, that he found him very reserved; but whether his reserve was the effect of prudence, of constitutional peculiarity, or conceit, he could not ascertain. We are informed by one of his companions at College, that he was originally intended for the Church; and it is not improbable, that it was his theological or metaphysical researches that gave him an insight into the operations of the mind, and connexion between the immortal and mortal part of the animated body, and which, at some period he may put into practice, or divulge for the benefit of the insane of the human race, which, according to some recent calculations, is only ninety-nine in a hundred. Indeed, according to the strict definition of partial insanity, where are we to find the man who is entirely free from it? If that man be insane who concentrates his views on this world, who professes christianity, and in conduct is an anti-christian, we should have as much difficulty in finding a sane man as *Æsop* had in finding an honest one.

MEDICAL EXCURSION ON THE CONTINENT.—Agreeably to the promise I made on concluding my last report of the state of medicine on the continent, I resume the comparison between the conduct of the London College of Physicians of London, and that of the examining physicians of the School of Medicine of Paris, towards those practitioners who possess honorary degrees. During the time the corporation spirit of the London College of Physicians was at its full height, this body varied their mode of prosecuting, or persecuting, the physicians who had dared to exercise their profession, or rather, to take fees, within their jurisdiction. But whether they were influenced in any instance by partiality, revenge, fear, or a spirit of monopoly, I shall leave to your readers to determine. A physician who had long exercised his profession in the metropolis, with great satisfaction to his patients, and who had for a considerable time discharged the important duties of physician to a public dispensary, with great credit to himself and justice to the charity, was summoned to attend a meeting of the college, to be examined as to his qualifications. The Doctor having only an honorary degree, they told him that he was not eligible for an examination, and insisted upon his relinquishing the practice of a physician. The doctor having eleven children and a wife solely dependent on his exertions, and having for so many years exercised his art in London, expressed a wish that they would not interdict him from practising without an examination as to

his competency ; and in case they should find him qualified, that they would grant him the same indulgence as they had shewn Sir Walter Farquhar and others. The members of the court were not to be moved by his entreaties. They refused to examine him until he had resided two years at an university. The Doctor, after consulting a few friends, determined to go to Edinburgh for two years, in order to render himself eligible for an examination at the College of Physicians. During his residence at this university, his mind was chiefly occupied in reviving his knowledge of the dead languages ; for, from the hospitals and lectures he had nothing to learn, being as well acquainted with the theory and practice of medicine as any of the teachers. After having resided two years at Edinburgh, and obtained another diploma from Glasgow, he presented himself before the College of Physicians of London for examination ; when that body was pleased to comply with his request. Their interrogations being answered satisfactorily, a licence was granted to him to practise physic within their jurisdiction. He afterwards attempted to revive his practice ; but Dr. Adams, who agreed to hold the appointment of physician to the dispensary till he returned, refused to relinquish it ; and his former patients, he had the mortification to find, had entirely lost all confidence in him as a physician, in consequence of supposing, that had he been qualified to act as a physician, the College would not have sent him again to school. He kept up his establishment and appearances, in the hope that his new connexion would not entirely desert him. The money he had been able to accumulate, being exhausted during his residence at Edinburgh, he soon became so involved, that in order to avoid the clamours of numerous creditors, it became necessary that he should keep a term of three months within the rules of the King's Bench ! This sad reverse of fortune so affected his wife, that her general health declined with such rapidity, that she discharged her debt to nature, leaving nine children to bewail her loss. For this melancholy sequel, it might be said, no blame can be attached to the College ; but if the Doctor was as well qualified to exercise the healing art, and to do his duty to his afflicted fellow-creatures as any member of their body, will they say they were discharging their duty to the public, in adopting such rigorous measures ? The late Lord Mansfield declared, that their charter would be forfeited, if they enforced bye-laws which decidedly militated against the public interest ; and the late Lord Kenyon, who was a decided stickler for corporation rights, observed, when Dr. Stanger applied to the Court of King's Bench, to compel the College to shew cause why they refused to admit him a member of their body, that they were not bound to admit every person, but that *they were bound to examine* all ; and I cannot for a moment suppose, that the legislature of the most enlightened country in the world, who allows universities to grant honorary degrees, would sanction the College in pronouncing those who possess them, incompetent to practise, without a previous examination. Do not proceedings so cruel and unphilosophical, reflect disgrace on the legislature ? I am inclined to believe, that the King of Mayti would not tolerate such conduct in his kingdom.

In the other professions the road to the highest dignities is open to

all the members. In the church and the law the lowest members have arrived to the first honours. The late Archbishop of Canterbury received the rudiments of his education in a charity school; and we could give the names of the heads of the High Court of Chancery, and of the King's Bench, who were articled clerks to attornies; and as experience makes the physician, why should not the road to the first honours in medicine be open to all members of the profession? If the graduates of the English universities are only to travel this road, what a most formidable obstacle is thrown in the way to medical improvement! By laying open the road to all, apothecaries would have a powerful incentive to accumulate facts, and to profit by their experience, instead of studying the art, as many are compelled to do, of inducing patients to swallow a medicinal draught every two or three hours. Is it not fair, that an apothecary, who has spent his best days in the practice of medicine, for which the profit arising from his medicines cannot be a sufficient remuneration, on his arriving at a period of life when he is not capable of much fatigue, should be allowed to exercise the profession as a physician? Surely such a man is more deserving of a remuneration for attendance than a graduate of an English university, who is not able to recognise the diseases at the bed-side, which he had heard described by a lecturer, or to distinguish one drug from another? If an honorary degree is a disgrace instead of an honour, to the man on whom it is conferred, why should the legislature allow the universities to grant them? As the English and Scotch universities have this privilege, we do conceive that it is incumbent on the College of Physicians to ascertain by personal examination of those who practise within their jurisdiction, if the honour has been deservedly conferred. Indeed, it appears to me, that the surgeon-apothecaries who receive from the Board of Examiners a licence to practise physic, rank above the licentiates of the College of Physicians, inasmuch as they are legally authorized to practise in the most complicated cases of disease; whereas the licentiates are only considered by the College as competent to practise in simple cases.

If hospital establishments form a medical school, surely London may be pronounced the first in the known world; and if able lecturers are necessary to complete it—are there not in London, lecturers on every branch of medicine equal, if not superior, to those of any University? At the London hospitals, it is indeed highly gratifying to observe the enthusiastic ardour with which the pupils prosecute their studies, and the attention they pay to the particular cases that occur. When they embark in practice, how completely does this ardour leave them! To meet the expenses of an establishment, which is necessary to support the respectability of his character (knowing that he cannot rise higher in the medical world than an apothecary,) he reluctantly makes a trade of the practice, by turning the exhibition of medicines to the best advantage; and, therefore, few are the apothecaries of this country who collect facts for future observation, or profit by the cases that occur in their practice. If an apothecary continues to attend to his practice, with the view of adding his mite to the general stock of knowledge, and acts conscientiously towards his patients, he must have some other source for the support of his domestic establishment. The

scientific and conscientious apothecaries of this metropolis are, generally speaking, in indigent circumstances.

If, on establishing a respectable connexion, an apothecary determines to raise himself in the medical world, by obtaining an honorary degree from a Scotch University, by means of testimonials of his professional talents, he will have to fight his way through a systematic disparagement, operating perpetually upon him as a silent persecution or dead weight, as it were, upon merit and talent. The graduates of the English Universities will embrace every opportunity to prejudice the public against him, by terming him an *irregular* man. Indeed, after making this laudable step towards eminence, he will soon have the mortification to find a barrier in his road which he will not be able to surmount, let his abilities be what they may!!

Doctor Dick, on his returning to England from Bengal (where he had exercised the office of physician for many years), took up his residence in London, with the intention of spending the evening of his life among his friends. Here he was consulted by those patients who had received benefit from his advice in the East Indies, and with whose constitutions the doctor was well acquainted. To the application of his old friends the doctor could not turn a deaf ear. A Fellow of the College having been privy to his taking a fee, the doctor was summoned to attend the College, in order to be examined as to his competency to exercise the medical art as a physician. The doctor punctually attended to their mandate. On being asked at what University he obtained his degree, he observed that he had no intention to practise physic within their jurisdiction, and therefore should not require a licence. They reprimanded him for having presumed to take a fee for his advice, fined him five pounds for the offence, interdicted him from practice, and made an order subjecting those members and even the licentiates of the College to a penalty who should meet him in consultation!! For the recovery of the fine an action was instituted against the doctor, and notwithstanding a tender of it was made, they determined to bring the affair into the Court of King's Bench, although they well knew they could not recover more than the penalty they had inflicted. A verdict was given for the five pounds, with costs amounting to nearly one hundred pounds, and what was probably another important object with the body, the speech of their own counsel was given in all the papers, without any remark from the opposite side, the doctor having made no defence!! Now why were such harsh proceedings carried on against an individual, for merely acting the part of the good Samaritan among his dearest friends? Was it because a Fellow of the College had published some new ideas of the importance of the bile in the animal economy, and on the treatment of affections of the liver, for which he admitted that he was indebted to the practice of physicians of the East Indies? It had become a sort of fashion to attribute all internal affections to redundancy of bile, and as the doctor had had more experience in affections of the liver during his residence in Bengal, than the member of the College, who had been active in disseminating the bilious doctrines, the latter *gentleman* might have supposed that the doctor would run away with the loaves and fishes. These proceedings did not lessen Doctor Dick in the estimation of his friends, for soon after-

wards the office of examining physician to the East India Company becoming vacant, by the death of a Doctor Hunter, (a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians), the doctor was unanimously appointed his successor. The College, according to their ancient custom, on the death of Dr. Hunter, recommended to the East India Company one of their own body, as well qualified to fill his place; but the company in their reply observed, that they considered the physician who had *seen* the diseases of the East Indies, better qualified to examine and instruct young surgeons, previous to their entering their service than the man who had only *read* or *heard* of them. The disastrous consequences of appointing physicians to the army, who were unacquainted with the diseases to which soldiers are liable in different climates, (which the College had claimed a right to do, when Sir Lucas Pepys, their president, was at the head of the Medical Board), had proved as instructive a lesson to the East India Company as it had to the legislature. It is to be regretted that Doctor Dick did not possess a sufficient degree of public spirit, as to try the question with the College, whether they could enforce a bye law that militated against the public good, which he might have done without incurring a further expence. The Doctor continued to prescribe for his friends beyond the seventh mile post, without the dread of interdiction, or a renewal of law proceedings, being there out of the pale of the College.

During the reign of this persecuting or monopolizing spirit at the College, Dr. Adams, although possessing only an honorary degree, was permitted to officiate as a physician to a public institution, as well as among his connexion. Although they could not be ignorant of his being in the daily habit of prescribing for patients and taking fees, the Doctor was neither fined nor molested. The Doctor, in his Treatise on Cancer, had spoken in flattering terms of some of the Fellows; he was also the principal editor of the Medical and Physical Journal, and had displayed on one occasion a disposition to oppose their attempts at monopoly. At length the College agreed to present him with a kind of non-descript licence, without subjecting him to any examination; authorizing him to continue the practice of physician in the metropolis, but reserving to themselves the power of annulling it, without assigning a reason for their conduct, whenever they thought proper.

Dr. John Clarke, although he possessed a licence from the College to practise midwifery, was fined five pounds for prescribing for an adult. This the doctor paid, and I am told continued to do monthly, the College politely or politically agreeing to take it, without subjecting him to the expence and stigma of a prosecution. The doctor's licence, they contended, only authorized him to prescribe in cases strictly midwifery, and for the diseases of infants. The doctor's connexion was highly respectable, and it would have shewn a want of knowledge of the world, to have given him any serious cause of offence. A surgeon, who in a low connexion, had for many years practised as a physician without molestation, was also summoned on an information by a licentiate. This man contended, that by virtue of his long service in the army as a surgeon, he was at liberty to practise physic and surgery; and to be paid for his attendance in any part of his Majesty's dominions, and that over him the College had no controul. They however desired him to

desist from the practice; the *doctor* in consequence expressed a determination to resist their attempts to monopolize the practice of London, and boldly accused them of being ignorant of the most important branches of the profession, viz. pharmacy and chemistry, for proofs of which he referred them to their pharmacopœia. He at length became so very vociferous, that they were under the necessity of having recourse to force, to make him quit the College. They afterwards served him with a process, to interdict him from practice, and on the beadle giving it to him, the doctor lost sight of the dignity of the physician, and offered an insult so filthy and ungentlemanly, that the College could not act otherwise than to prosecute him; nor could any member of the profession, of gentlemanly feelings, take part in his defence. He afterwards published some observations on the pharmacopœia of the College, with the view of exposing its chemical errors, which exhibited his own ignorance on the subject.

I have noticed the different modes the College have adopted, that your readers may judge for themselves, whether this body were really actuated as they wish the public to believe they were, by a laudable desire to promote medical science, and to suppress quackery, for the benefit of his Majesty's liege subjects residing within their jurisdiction, or whether they have not forfeited their charter by making bye laws, merely to enable them to institute vexatious and cruel prosecutions against meritorious characters, for the benefit of themselves.

That the legislature considers the Charter of the College of Physicians obsolete, or inapplicable to the present state of medicine, is, I think, evident, from the new lunatic bill, as well as the apothecary's bill, the latter of which, gives the power of granting licences to apothecaries to attend patients within the jurisdiction of the College, and to examine the shops of apothecaries, which was one of the duties imposed upon the College by the charter, and which by them has been most shamefully neglected. Quackery also, which they were bound to suppress, never flourished more than it has within the last twenty years. If an application were made to the legislature, for giving proper medical dignity to the meritorious graduates of the Scotch Universities, it would no doubt have its desired effects, for I think the College would not have the hardihood to oppose a reformation, which is so universally allowed to be necessary. Little gratitude, it is true, has been shewn by the legislature, notwithstanding the predominance of Scotch influence in the cabinet, to the principal University of Scotland; which has so distinguished itself in a science the most beneficial to mankind, and to which the English nation is more indebted than to any other. The Scotch nation has a right to expect, that a University, that has produced the first and greatest number of pupils, would at least, have been placed on a footing with that of Dublin, the one being the University of an *independent* kingdom, entitled by its articles of Union to an equality of privileges; the other the University of a *conquered* country, and considered merely as a province, however respectable many of the natives are for genius and talent. The students of the Scotch Universities have as great a right to be received into the English Universities as those of Dublin, and had the English College of Physicians been composed of men of liberality and friends to science, they would have

voluntarily granted this privilege, or made an application to the Legislature in their behalf, from feelings of respect and gratitude; for, notwithstanding the Fellows are chiefly Graduates of the English Universities, they are indebted to that of Edinburgh for their *medical* knowledge. To me it has long been a matter of astonishment that the University of Edinburgh should not have been roused by the indignities which have been offered to its Graduates in London, to assert its own rights, and to claim its consequence and pre-eminence. The spirit and independence of a Gregory could not be more laudably exerted than in contending in so honourable a cause, and taking a lead with his brethren in so just an undertaking, by fairly representing their situation to the Legislature through the medium of their members. In my next communication I shall prove that "they manage these things better in France."

WATERY HEAD.—Dr. Vose, Physician to the General Dispensary at Liverpool, has lately communicated to the Medico-Chirurgical Society of London a case of this disease, which was successfully treated under his direction, by evacuating the fluid. The patient was only seven weeks old; the head was enlarged by the accumulated fluid to between two or three times its natural size; the bones of the head were very loose, ossification not having advanced. Shortly after its birth, the mother noticed the increased size of the head. The enlargement gradually proceeded, and when the Doctor first saw it, the head (he says) was so transparent, that when held between the eye and the light, it appeared like a paper lantern. The infant's general health was very good, except a slight derangement of the bowels, and occasional convulsions. The Doctor pronounced it to be a favourable case for the experiment of gradually discharging the water from the head by a puncture. The operation was accordingly performed the following day by means of a couching needle, of the size and shape formerly in use. Three ounces and five drachms of a limpid fluid escaped, when the opening was closed by adhesive plaster, after which a roller was applied to the head. After the discharge of this quantity of water, the bones of the skull collapsed, and the portion of the scalp termed *fontinella* became so flaccid as to allow the water left behind to gravitate backwards on laying the child on its back, exhibiting an appearance of a pendulous bag. About the same quantity dribbled from the puncture as had escaped before the application of the plaster. The strength of the child was now so reduced as to create great alarm in the mind of the mother: the child, however, revived without the aid of medicine, and the water again accumulating, the head in a few days became as large as before. The operation was repeated, when the Doctor was less cautious in the mode of the puncture and the quantity of the fluid abstracted. A curved-pointed bistury was employed, to make a puncture, and five ounces of fluid were evacuated. No unpleasant consequences followed. The head having regained its former size, it was, on the expiration of three weeks, repunctured, when eight ounces of fluid escaped, and no constitutional disturbance succeeded. In about nine days afterwards the head was again punctured, a small grooved director was introduced into the orifice, and twelve ounces of fluid were drawn off in a continued

stream. The head, in consequence of this evacuation, became so flaccid and shapeless, that the mother, but not the Doctor, was shocked at its appearance. No derangement of the health followed. In the period between the first and second operation ossification advanced in a perceptible degree, and after the succeeding operation, the process was still more evident, and before the last the sagittal suture, which had on the commencement of the treatment divided the frontal bone as low as the nose by a wide chasm, was entirely obliterated by a perfect union of the bone. A short time after the last operation the child discharged a considerable quantity of water by the bowels. This at first took place with the natural motions, but afterwards the water resembling, in sensible quantities, that which was discharged from the head, was evacuated alone, and continued to be so for four or five days. The same low state as followed the first puncture of the head took place on the second day of the watery discharge from the bowels, and it was particularly remarked that a diminution of the size of the head had corresponded with the quantity of water thus evacuated. Ossification of the skull bones now advanced with rapidity, and the bones of the head were, at the time the Doctor communicated the case, nearly as complete as is usual in a healthy child of the same age, and since the first operation, it has been entirely free from convulsions.—Dr. Vose not being equal to the chemical examination of the fluid discharged from the head, applied to a Dr. Trail, who, he says, “unites to *very various* scientific acquirements, much skill in *practical* chemistry,” to analyze it. This gentleman “found it *at first* to contain scarcely any trace of albumen; he *considered* it to possess more of the characters of simply diluted mucus.”—After the second and third operations, the presence of albumen was more sensible. The medical treatment of the infant was restricted to the preservation of the action of the bowels by small doses of quicksilver with chalk, formerly termed alkalized mercury.

This was a very favourable case for an operation, on account of the loose state of the bones of the head admitting of collapse. Where the bones are ossified, or far advanced in ossification, the operation has uniformly terminated fatally, in consequence of the admission of air from the bones not collapsing.

PHYSIOLOGY and DISEASES of the EAR.—Mr. Swan, Surgeon to the Infirmary at Lincoln, has lately communicated to the profession a few facts, which, in his opinion, accounts for some part of the physiology of the ear, not generally understood, and which he thinks may induce practitioners to persevere in trying to supply some of the defects of the organ of hearing, so as to render a great service to many labouring under its infirmities. When the ears are stopped, and a watch is brought in contact with any part of the head, face, teeth, or neck; or if a stick, water, &c. be interposed between any of these parts and the watch, the sound will be heard as well as when the ears are open.

It has been supposed, that the sound is mechanically conveyed through the flesh and bone in the same way it is through a macerated bone, piece of wood, &c.; but if it were so, it must be heard always when the auditory nerve is perfect, at whatever part of the head, face,

&c. the watch is applied, but this is not the case. Where the hearing through the external ear has been perfect, and where there has been no apparent alteration in the structure of the head, face, &c. Mr. Swan has seen many who could hear from only one of these parts, and several who could not hear from any of them.

Mr. Swan, on stopping his ears and resting his chin on the petrous portion of the temporal bone in a macerated skull, and placing his watch in contact with any part of the skull, could hear the sound perfectly. He saw a boy who was born deaf and dumb, but had been taught to speak, and when a watch touched the left side of his face, he could hear it; but when it touched any part of the right side, he could not in the least.

A man who was recovering from an illness had become so deaf of the left ear that he could just hear a watch when put very near it; he heard perfectly with the right ear. Mr. Swan desired him to stop his ears until he could not hear his watch when put nearly in contact with them; he then let it touch the left side of his face, &c.; he just heard it; but when he let it touch the right side, he heard it distinctly. If sound be conveyed mechanically through the flesh and bone, what in these two cases should hinder it from being heard distinctly, when the watch touched either side of the face, any more than in the macerated skull?

If sound be not conveyed mechanically through the head, face, &c. it must be through some other medium, and that Mr. Swan believes to be the hard branch of the auditory nerve, and some other nerves connected with it.

On dissecting the auditory nerves in man he found at the bottom of the internal ear a communication between the soft branch and the hard branch. In sheep he has observed the same communication. In fishes several nerves that have a communication with the auditory nerve are spread on the skin over the whole head.

If we consider how the hard branch is connected by nervous substance with the soft branch, its extraordinary course, its receiving the branch of the vidian nerve and the chorda tympani, and when it is got out of the foramen stylo mastoideum, its great expansion, he concludes, that it was made to serve some greater purpose than has hitherto been ascribed to it. That this provision of nature has been useful to deaf people, he thinks is evident by the case of a deaf man noticed by Haller, who, on entering a hall where the harp was being played, beat time violently with his foot to the tune.

That it might be useful to many, could proper instruments be made, to increase the effect of sound, and especially to those who are deaf and dumb, if properly persevered in, Mr. Swan thinks probable; but it must be remembered, that where the disease is in the nerve, no good can be derived from it, which may be ascertained after a few trials, by the expression of the child, if a sounding body is applied to the head, face, neck, or teeth; and that many deaf and dumb can hear in this way, Mr. Swan is himself from experiment well convinced. If from what has been said, it should appear probable, that sound is conveyed by the hard portion to the soft portion of the auditory nerve in man, Mr. Swan thinks it will be reasonable to conclude, that the nerves

which are spread on the soft parts of the heads of fishes, answer in a great measure the same purpose the tympanum does in man; and though in man this provision is not necessary, when the tympanum is perfect, yet, when that is imperfect, it becomes the means of conveying sound to the portio mollis, and thus answers one of the most important purposes in the animal economy.

Mr. Curtis has published three cases of puriform discharges from the ear, which he has successfully treated by injection, &c. As the same treatment was adopted in every case, we shall give that which illustrates most satisfactorily its beneficial effects.

Miss B. of St. John-street, aged 26, had been from her childhood affected with deafness, and a puriform discharge from one ear. After having been under the care of several eminent surgeons of London for upwards of two years without receiving any relief, she applied to Mr. Curtis. On inspecting the ear, he found the internal surface much excoriated, which he thinks was produced by the discharge; it being very profuse and offensive. The tympanum (the *membra tympana*, we presume, he means) he found partly destroyed, as air could be forced through the passage. In other respects the ear appeared to be sound. Adopting his usual plan of not stopping the discharge hastily, he ordered a blister to be applied behind the ear, and to be kept open for a fortnight; after which a solution of sulphate of zinc (white vitriol) was injected. This not producing the desired effect, he substituted for it a solution of the nitrate of silver (lunar caustic) as recommended by the late Mr. Saunders in similar cases. He commenced with a solution of ten grains in four ounces of water, which he increased to thirty-five grains; which completely healed the parts, when he had the satisfaction to find the hearing restored. Mr. Curtis observes, that of all the diseases of the ear, the most obstinate and perplexing to practitioners, is that which is attended with a puriform discharge. He adds, that the last stage of this affection, the late Mr. Saunders stated to be incurable. With due deference to so great an authority, Mr. Curtis attributes his want of success, more to his not having sufficiently varied his remedies, and pushed them to a proper extent, than to the incurable nature of the disease. The injection recommended by Mr. Saunders, he has found too weak, and he has also found it necessary to vary the combinations much more than Mr. Saunders had thought it proper to attempt. It is, says Mr. Curtis, only by extensive experience, that we get acquainted with what the ear, or any other organ, can bear: and at the Dispensary for the Deaf, to which he is surgeon, he has had opportunities of putting every mode of practice to the test. The same observations apply to the constitutional treatment, which requires great and constant attention. The case we have noticed above, took nine months to complete the cure. The cases which Mr. Saunders pronounces to be very difficult to cure, and in the last stage to be incurable, we believe are those which are attended with disease of the petrous portion of the temporal bone, and when the ulceration or excoriation extends to the internal ear. When the disease is confined to the external ear and *membrana tympani*, we have never failed in effecting a cure by means of a solution of the sulphate of copper, with an alterative medicine, and application of a blister

to the nape of the neck. The application of a blister behind the ear, is, in our opinion, much too near to the seat of mischief, as the erysipelatous inflammation, which is often excited by blisters, we have found in many instances to extend to the diseased part, so as considerably to increase the malady, and the sufferings of the patient. A blister to the nape of the neck, we consider in all cases necessary, as inflammation of the brain, particularly in infants, has followed the use of injections in this disease, by suddenly checking the discharge, and where the disease has been of long standing, as in the case published by Mr. Curtis, we think an issue in the nape of the neck or arm would be proper, with a view to prevent a recurrence. If the membrano tympani be partially destroyed by ulceration, we doubt very much the propriety of injecting so strong a solution of the nitrated silver as that Mr. Curtis employed; and we confess we should have been more satisfied with his narrative, had he noticed its sensible effects of the injection on the internal parts.

MANIACAL EPILEPSY.—The favourable Reports of the Effects of the internal use of the Rectified Spirit of Turpentine in Maniacal Epilepsy, by Dr. Perceval of Dublin, have induced Dr. Halloran, Physician to the Lunatic Asylum at Cork, to give it a trial in this malady. For this purpose, the doctor made a particular selection of eight men and four women, that were subject to the disease. He commenced with a tea-spoonful of the spirit in a glass of water, three times a day, and so continued for three days, when it was increased to a double dose. At the end of a week, the report of each patient was, that the fits were less frequent, and of shorter duration. They were all conscious of having slept better, and of having felt more comfortably. In general they took the medicine, from the conviction that it was merely a cordial or dram. During the first fortnight, an evident advantage was obtained, but from that to the end of the second, the effect had ceased, although the spirit had been increased to half an ounce three times each day; it at length produced pain in the bowels, and seemed to create a distaste for food. It was again put to trial with others of the same class, and precisely with similar results, and Dr. Halloran joins in the judicious observation of Dr. Perceval on this interesting subject, by admitting that he was not able in a single instance, to banish permanently the epileptic attacks; but in every instance, they became considerably milder, less frequent, and remarkably disengaged from the maniacal excitement which had formerly attended them. In one particular case of chronic insanity, the sequel of an acute mania, from habitual intoxication, the doctor found, that two tea-spoonful of the spirit given three times a day, had the effect of satisfying the eager anxiety for ardent spirits, from which the patient had reluctantly refrained. An unexpected appearance of contentment and moderation very shortly succeeded, and with this a gradual return of the mental faculty. This man is about thirty years of age, of a sallow complexion, disposed to inflammation of the eye-lids, apparently scrofulous. He remains still at the Asylum on the probationary term; and about two years back, had been under similar confinement, from whence he was dismissed cured. He again bids fair for a dismissal, for which the Doctor conceives him materially indebted to the turpentine.

TYPHOID FEVER.—Mr. Whitmore, Surgeon of Clerkenwell, has published a case of fever in which the free use of bottled porter seemed to arrest the progress of the disease more speedily, although given at an advanced stage of it, than any other remedial process he ever saw employed; and the advance to health was far more rapid than is usual from such attacks of fever. How far the success of this treatment may have depended upon the *quantity* of carbonic acid gas which was evolved, or the peculiar tonic property of the porter, or to both, Mr. Whitmore leaves to his readers to determine: we shall give Mr. Whitmore's own narrative of the case.

"On the sixth ult. I was called to the only child of Mr. Cook, No. 5, Lane's Court, Warner Street, aged 5 years; I found her in a very febrile state, having a flushed countenance, tongue white, skin dry and parched, pulse quick and wiry, with constipation of the bowels; which last symptom was removed by giving two powders, each containing rhubarb powder and calomel, of each four grains, given at an interval of four hours; and antimonial powders was administered at bed time.

7th. A gentle perspiration was evident; the pulse less hard; in all other respects the same; gave the saline mixture, and repeated the powder at night.

8th. 9th. and 10th.—Mixture continued without the powder at night.

11th. I was called to my patient early this morning, a material alteration for the worse having taken place in the night; found her muttering, unconscious of passing events: tongue brown, encrusted, rough, hard, and dry; no thirst; pulse fluttering, at somewhat more than 180; countenance dejected and pale, save a fixed patch of red on the centre of each cheek; extremities cold.—I applied a blister to the spine; warm poultices of vinegar and linseed powder to the feet, and ordered the following draught to be given every four hours. Take of camphorated mixture, half an ounce; Rectified ether, ten drops. Mix.

12th. Six of the draughts have been taken; the patient to all appearance worse; an entire loss of animal heat; a cold clammy sweat nearly over the whole body; pulse not to be counted, or rather not to be felt at the wrist; tongue quite black and hard. I removed the blister which had risen well and discharged much: a little wine was attempted to be given, but which was steadily and clamorously refused by the patient. A quart bottle of good porter was then procured, which was eagerly drank in the course of the day, taking a tea-cup full at a time. A clyster of yeast was administered at night.

13th. Seven a. m.—The countenance somewhat improved; an imperfect return of sense. Knows every body about her, though unable to speak; flushes of heat are sometimes thrown over the body; pulse still imperceptible at the wrist; I ordered another bottle of porter to be procured immediately, and given at pleasure; the poultices to be continued to the feet, and another to be applied over the region of the heart.

Ten p. m. The whole of the porter has been taken; patient in every respect much better; has responded to the calls of nature as she

was wont to do, has spoken several sentences correctly: much heat: pulse can be distinctly felt at about 120: the eyes suffused: tongue white at its edges, with a dark brown streak down its centre; much watching and restlessness, together with a very troublesome cough; ordered the porter to be discontinued, but gave no medicine.

14th. Patient has had a very good night, and seems much refreshed by sleep: tongue much cleaner: a gentle moisture on the skin: has taken nourishment with avidity: cough very troublesome: ordered almond emulsion with oxymel of squills.

15th. Found her sitting up: cough better.

16th, 17th. Progressively recovering.

18th. Took leave of my patient.

On reading over this case I find I have omitted to mention a practice which was attentively pursued through the whole of the febrile paroxysm, viz. sponging the body frequently with equal parts of warm vinegar and water.

Bottled porter is by no means a new remedy for this species of fever. About twenty years ago it was much employed in Bartholomew's hospital, and certainly with the most beneficial effects—why it has not continued a favourite with the profession we cannot learn. Its salutary operation in fever are attributable to the carbonic acid gas which is evolved in the stomach, and to the anodyne ingredients that enter its composition.

BATHING.—Sir Arthur Clarke of Dublin, Member of the London College of Surgeons, M.D., &c. &c. has lately published a fourth edition of his popular essay on the effects of the different methods employed in this country of applying water to the surface of the body. The chief object of the work, Sir Arthur declares to be “to obviate an idea equally unfounded and prejudicial, that the use of the warm bath relaxes the frame and renders it more susceptible of cold, and to prove on the contrary that this remedy *properly* applied, in reality invigorates the system and fortifies it against the effects of cold.” For this purpose he has concentrated into a small compass all the practical information he has been able to collect from the writings of the most eminent medical men of the age, to which he flatters himself that he has added some facts of interest not generally known. Though the external use of water for the purpose of cleanliness has been common in all nations and ages, the practice of bathing as a preventive, or a remedy for disease, or as a luxury, has been entirely confined to the polished nations of Europe and Asia. In the early records of antiquity, bathing is noticed as a means of fortifying the body against the fatigues and hardships of war, but with these views, the cold water was employed. That the ancient physicians were not governed by any rational principles respecting the external application of water, is evident from the very loose manner in which they speak of it; ablution and bathing being suggested without specifying any degree of temperature. The practice of bathing formed part of the Mosaic laws.—In holy writ it is on various occasions mentioned as a remedy for many diseases.

It appears by a passage in the 2nd book of Kings, that the practice of bathing as a remedy for affections of the skin, was well understood in those days, and certain rivers were esteemed for their medicinal vir-

tues.—Thus when Naaman the Syrian when desired by Elisha to bath in the river Jordan for the cure of the leprosy, exclaimed, are not Abanar and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? May I not wash in them and be clean? By the Romans bathing was held in great estimation, probably as a luxury, for according to Fabricius, there were not fewer than 856 public baths in Rome, some of which were capable of containing 800 persons. In Great Britain the warm bath has probably been employed from time immemorial, in consequence of the natural hot springs at Bath and Bristol. It does not appear that vapour baths were employed here till the middle of the last century, when Dr. Dominiceti, an Italian physician, formed an establishment in London, to which the late Sir John Fielding gave great publicity by communicating the cures that were effected by the doctor to the magistrates in the principal towns of England. In Ireland, warm baths were first established about fifty years ago, but it was not till very lately that a vapour bath could be procured in Dublin. About nine years ago, an establishment was formed in that city, at which Sir Arthur Clarke has had an opportunity of ascertaining the effects of the external application of water, in different forms and degrees of temperature upon the human body; and the preference he gives to the vapour bath is founded upon his *personal* experience.

Sea bathing, Sir Arthur observes, has frequently received the credit of a cure, which was entirely owing to the change of the air; and many times, unsuspectedly, the gradual and permanent application of the cold bath has originated and laid the foundation, of chronic diseases and peculiarity of constitution. Its utility in *scrofula*, and glandular swellings of the neck, he thinks is extremely doubtful. Mr. *Carmichael*, in his very ingenious Treatise on Scrofula, corroborates this opinion on the effects of the cold bath in that disease. Respecting the inefficacy, or rather injurious tendency of sea bathing, where the patient's vital powers are so deficient that re-action does not follow the immersion, he discards its use altogether; but from the action of the *tepid salt water* on the vessels of the skin, he says it is an auxiliary that cannot fail of being serviceable, and from which he has witnessed the very best effects.

Indigestion, tumified abdominal viscera, enlarged mesenteric glands, obstructed livers, indurated spleens, chronic pains in the stomach and bowels, and many other disorders, are frequently the result of cold bathing.

Darwin thinks that the diseased liver and spleen are generated during the cold fit of the ague: and the long-continued shivering fit, which precedes re-action of the cold bath, in feeble patients, Sir Arthur considers very analogous to that condition of the body. Organic disease of the viscera, which occurs during ague, is more the effect of increased than diminished heat.

Cold affusion, and cold bath, which have been recommended by some surgical writers to assist the reduction of *strangulated hernia*, Sir Arthur has seen tried sometimes with advantage, but much oftener without success. Mr. Hey, of *Leeds*, saw a spontaneous ascent of a *strangulated intestine*, caused by a single immersion in the cold bath; but a solitary instance of its utility should not induce us to adopt a

practice, when we are in possession of a much safer and more effectual remedy, the warm and vapour bath.

In gouty and rheumatic complaints, however—in diseases of the hip joint, lumbago, or sciatica, after the removal of those complaints by the use of the vapour or hot bath, (and in conjunction with other remedies,) the alternation of the cold with the vapour bath, Sir Arthur has found to place the system in a better state of defence against a renewal of the morbid action; and nothing appears to restore strength so rapidly as the cold bath to such patients.

Sir Arthur at his institution employs seven different kinds of baths, —*Viz.* The *cold*, the *cool*, the *tepid*, the *warm*, the *hot*, the *vapour*, and the *medicated*. With respect to cold bathing, he considers the shower bath the best and safest mode, because it is less liable to produce cramp, and more generally followed by a proper degree of re-action. He has tried this mode of applying cold water in two cases of insanity, with singular advantage, but during the time the water was descending on the head, the trunk was immersed in warm water. This experiment, which is doubtless perfectly safe, Sir Arthur recommends to the attention of those gentlemen who have the medical superintendence of maniacs. When water exceeds the temperature of 65 degrees, and till it arrives to 85, Sir Arthur terms it the *cool* bath. The best preparation for cold bathing he considers the one that is usually adopted, *viz.* to begin with a warm, then a tepid, and afterwards a cool bath. This mode is condemned by some practitioners, because, by accustoming the body by degrees to the use of cold water, it does not receive that impression which rouses its vital functions, so as to occasion a proper degree of re-action.

The heat necessary for a *tepid* bath, is from the highest degree of the cool bath to 95. This bath is chiefly recommended for the purpose of cleanliness and healthy exercise. That a due attention to strict cleanliness of the body is too often neglected in this country, Sir Arthur thinks cannot be denied; we are however of opinion, that more mischief has been done by ablution of the body than by the neglect of it. Nothing is more pure, or free from combinations, than the secretion termed perspiration; and if the skin be covered with clean linen, ablution cannot be necessary, only of those parts which are exposed to the atmosphere, and where the skin comes into contact. The use of the tepid bath Sir Arthur particularly recommends during the latter period of pregnancy, with the view of removing the distressing affections of the stomach, sense of oppression, &c. attendant on it, and to facilitate labour; and for these purposes it is unquestionably a most valuable remedy. He also recommends its occasional use during the different stages of life; being convinced, “that human existence, by tepid bathing, temperance, and exercise, is capable of longer duration than is observable at present.” For the *warm* bath, the water is heated from 95 to 98 degrees. Affusion of water heated to either of these degrees, he considers more effectual than immersion of the body in the warm bath, in diminishing diseased temperature, quickening the pulse, relieving respiration, and producing a tendency to sleep. The effects are however more transient than those of immersion in the warm bath. This bath he recommends for hectic fever, most chronic and eruptive,

acute diseases, and those attended with increased heat, dryness of the skin; atonic gout, and rheumatism, accompanied with stiffness, and swelling of the joints, green sickness, slight cases of palsy, scrofulous swellings, St. Vitus's dance, and other convulsive affections, where the cold bath might prove too violent, hydrophobia, hysterics, all the affections of the bowels depending on an irregular or diminished action of any part of the intestines, cases of debility attended with nervous irritation, and locked jaw. When the intention is to increase perspiration, he recommends it to be used in an evening; the immersion should not exceed ten minutes, and the patient should be moved from the bath to a warm bed: where the object is not to excite perspiration any time after dinner will be proper, and the immersion may be continued from fifteen to twenty minutes, according to the feelings of the patient; gentle exercise in the open air should afterwards be taken. *The hot bath* commences at the degree of heat at which the warm bath ends, viz. 98 degrees, if the heat of the bath much exceeds this degree, or if the immersion be continued beyond a few minutes, the determination of blood to the head is increased, which in some instances has produced apoplexy. This remedy is so powerfully stimulant, that it can only be employed in those cases in which the ordinary stimuli have been found ineffectual; Sir Arthur therefore has seldom employed it. *The vapour bath* is an apparatus to which the steam of boiling water, either simple or medicated, is conveyed through pipes from a common boiler, modelled from one invented by the Honourable Basil Cochrane, a scientific gentleman, to whom we are indebted for our knowledge of this truly valuable remedy, more than any other person in Europe. The effect of heated vapour, in raising the temperature of the body, is much less than that of the hot bath, and as the head may be exposed to it, or admitted into the machine that receives the vapour, there is no fear of its producing a preternatural determination of blood to the brain. In consequence of its being exhaled, the internal surface of the windpipe and lungs is exposed to its influence, which in nervous affections, such as asthma, and difficulty of breathing, from the want of expectoration, is uniformly productive of the best effects. The Honourable Basil Cochrane, it seems, cured himself of a most formidable disease of the lungs by this remedy, and by the occasional exposure of his body to it, has kept his system in a healthy state. The vapour bath is recommended by Sir Arthur in cases of fever, bilious, and liver complaint, dropsy, rheumatism, glandular swellings of the neck, palsy, gout, gravel; inflammation of the bowels, affections of the lungs, cholera morbus, dysentery, looseness, watery head, &c.; the temperature of the vapour bath, and the time of remaining in it, must of course depend upon the purpose for which it is designed, ten minutes or a quarter of an hour, but there may be cases in which half an hour or even an hour may be necessary. The best time for using the vapour bath, is in the morning, or at any period before dinner; after the body is properly dried and rubbed, it is found to be very grateful, and is perfectly safe; Sir Arthur asserts that people are less liable to take cold after warm or vapour bathing than at any other time, for the increased circulation on the surface of the body keeps up a great degree of heat, which the non-conducting state of the skin long preserves, even in the medium of a cold

atmosphere. The salutary effects of the external application of warm vapour, Sir Arthur attributes to the promotion of perspiration, we, however, attribute them to its allaying excitement of the nervous system, which has more to do in cases of fevers than the circulation of the blood. Sir Arthur introduces a chapter on shampooing, a favorite remedy with some physicians at Brighton, and from its effects in rheumatism, gout, and chronic affections of the viscera, is likely to become popular. Of this practice, Sir Arthur's account is taken from Savary's Letters from Egypt, not having given it a trial at his establishment.

Water of different degrees of temperature, and particularly in a state of vapour, may unquestionably be employed as a powerful auxiliary to medicine in the treatment of nearly all the diseases that assail human nature, and as a preventive of many of the most formidable, more powerful than medicine itself. Sir Arthur in his Essay relates the results of personal experience and observation, and when we consider that he is the proprietor of the largest bath in the united kingdom, much credit is due to him for the very modest manner in which he has spoken of the effects of the different kinds of bath. He has pointed out with the candour of a man of science the diseases and the circumstances in which they may prove injurious: and his work will be found to contain more useful instruction, and valuable practical remarks, than any that has appeared on the subject.

EXCESSIVE LOSS OF BLOOD.—SIRS,—I amuse myself by perusing your Monthly Gazette of Health, for the purpose of obtaining general information, and in No. 38, page 35, I observe an account published by Surgeon White, of a death from loss of blood by the application of a leech. Not being bred to surgery or physic, my knowledge is purely theoretical and what I learn from authors. Hints may be sometimes useful even from an ignoramus. The subject immediately occurred to me, of the experiments made by (I think), Spallanzani, Darwin and others, of transfusing blood from one animal to another. Suppose the surgeon in the above case, had directly taken the child properly wrapped up, to a neighbouring butcher for instance, and immediately opened the vein of a lamb, a calf, or any animal that was at hand, so as to have conveyed its warm blood by a syringe, a quill, or some convenient tube, into any proper vein of the child. I say, is it not possible resuscitation might have taken place? at least, would not this have been worth a trial, as the death of the child was merely occasioned by a loss or waste of that pabulum of life.

S. G. Feb. 8, 1819.

A CHRISTIAN OBSERVER.

Dr. Blundell, lecturer on physiology at Guy's Hospital, has lately published the results of several experiments, on the transfusion of blood by a syringe, which he was induced to make, in consequence of the death of a woman from an excessive discharge of blood, which occurred in his own practice. Reflecting afterwards on this case, the doctor could not forbear considering the patient might have been saved by transfusion, and that although there was no time for operating in the usual manner, the vessels might have been replenished by means of a syringe with facility and promptitude. As the doctor had some doubt, whether the blood would remain fit for the animal functions after passing through the syringe, he instituted a series of expe-

riments to ascertain the point. He commenced by laying bare the blood-vessels in the groin of a dog, and a pipe sufficiently large to fill the artery was introduced, with its extremity towards the heart. On removing the ligature which had been applied to the vessel to prevent a premature discharge, the blood rushed out with such velocity, that eight ounces escaped in the course of two minutes, and the discharge soon afterwards ceased. Alarming symptoms followed, as gasping, struggling, and convulsions; and at length fainting, with stoppage of circulation, insensibility, and a complete relaxation of the muscles of the abdomen. After allowing the animal to lie in this state for a few seconds, the doctor injected into the femoral vein six ounces of blood, taken immediately from another dog. The animal soon revived, the muscles became firm, the respiration regular, sensibility restored, and the blood began to circulate so briskly, that it forced away the coagulum that had formed in the femoral tube, and rushed out. So sudden and complete was the resuscitation, that the animal seemed to awake from sleep, than to arise from apparent death. The result of this experiment satisfactorily proves that the transmission of blood through a syringe, does not unfit it for the animal purposes. As this was an important circumstance, fully to ascertain, the doctor thought it proper to institute other experiments to confirm it. He laid the same vessels of a dog bare as before, and introduced a pipe into the artery and vein, then by means of a syringe, the blood which flowed into a cup from the artery, he directly injected into the vein; and although this operation was continued twenty-four minutes, the vital functions did not appear to suffer. During this operation, Dr. Blundell supposes twelve pounds of blood must have entered the cup, and been transmitted by the syringe to the veins. The whole weight of the dog, however, did not exceed that weight, and hence it is obvious that the same blood must have passed through the syringe repeatedly. From these experiments, it is obvious, that the transfusion of blood to the veins of a human subject, as proposed by our intelligent correspondent, may be attended with the most important advantages. Although the blood sustains but little injury, when received into a cup, and promptly transferred to the veins, it suffers greatly (probably from separation), if transfusion be delayed. In order to ascertain the effects of injecting the blood of another species of animal, the doctor drained a dog of his blood, by opening the artery in the groin, and replenished the vein by injecting human blood, which had been in a cup between fifty and sixty seconds. The animal revived, the blood circulated, the respiration was renewed, and sensibility restored; but these flattering symptoms were of short duration, for in the course of a few minutes the animal died. In a second experiment conducted in the same manner, with human blood that had remained in the cup only thirty seconds, the resuscitation was complete, the animal although languid being able to walk, and became so lively and sensible, that it was much pleased on being caressed; it however died in the course of twelve hours.

From a survey of these and similar experiments, it appears that the blood by lying in the cup between thirty and sixty seconds, is rendered unfit for the purpose of life. It has generally been supposed by medical men, that the blood of one kind of animal, may with impunity

be substituted for that of another, and that the dog particularly would suffer but little inconvenience, if it were drained of its own blood, and replenished from the sheep. This opinion is rendered extremely doubtful by the further experiments of Dr. Blundell. The doctor drained three dogs of their blood, and supplied them with human blood, in the manner above described, without delay; the blood being taken up by the syringe, as it flowed into the cup, and immediately injected into the vein. These dogs, although they recovered, died, one of them in a few minutes, another in a few hours, and the third several days afterwards. The last appeared for a time likely to recover entirely; but dropsy of the pericardium came on which proved fatal. Another dog, on which the same operation had been performed, by Mr. Goodridge, a pupil at the Hospital, eventually recovered; but the constitution of the dog was very vigorous. Dr. Peacock, prior to these experiments, drained several dogs of their blood, and replenished the sanguiferous system with the blood from the sheep; they revived for a time, but generally died in a few days afterwards. It appears very evident by these experiments, that in order to resuscitate a human being, whose vital functions are suspended by excessive loss of blood, it would be very hazardous to inject any other than human blood, and as a person may lose from sixteen to twenty ounces of blood without feeling its loss, it may be obtained without delay, in sufficient quantity for an infant, or indeed from two persons for an adult. Dr. Blundell made use of a syringe of a peculiar construction, apparently with a view to prevent a separation of the blood, or exposure to the atmosphere; but if the blood be received into a cup, placed in water heated to about ninety degrees, it may with equal advantage be injected by a common syringe, the operator taking care that atmospheric air be not forced in with it. The best vein in the human subject to open for this purpose, is, we conceive, the external jugular. It is scarcely necessary to observe, that it should be thrown in a direction towards the heart. The case of the death of an infant from the loss of blood, noticed in our last number, and to which our correspondent refers, was certainly a very favourable one for this experiment.

PLAGUE.—A medical gentleman lately returned from Constantinople, has persuaded some merchants of the city of London, that he had satisfactorily ascertained, that the plague is not a contagious disease, and consequently, that the quarantine laws, so injurious to their interest, are unnecessary. The merchants it appears have been induced by this opinion, to apply to the legislature, for an abolition of these laws, in order that their ships may proceed to a British port, from those countries where the plague is an endemic disease. Now the evidence of any disease being communicated by contagion, is, in our opinion, not stronger than that of the contagious nature of the plague. When the disease appeared in this island, the importation of the matter of contagion was at the time clearly traced. In the year 1593, when the plague destroyed 11,503 lives, it was satisfactorily ascertained, that the matter of contagion was received from Alckmaar. In 1603, when 36,269 individuals fell victims to it in London, it was received from Ostend. In six years afterwards it appeared again at Alckmaar, and also in Denmark; but in consequence of all communi-

cation between those places and England being suspended, it did not extend to this country. In 1625, it broke out in London, when it was clearly traced from Denmark; its ravages during that year exceeded 25,000. In 1636, it destroyed 13,480 persons in London, when it was imported from Leyden. In 1665, the disease again appeared in London, and according to the smallest calculation, destroyed about 70,000. Since that time the plague has not appeared among us, which in our opinion is attributable only to the strict observance of the quarantine laws. Since that period, epidemic fevers have become less malignant in London, for which we can satisfactorily account. The greater use of fresh vegetable food, a less consumption of fish, superior cleanliness, the greater attention paid to the poor in times of scarcity, the tremendous fire in 1666, the removal of old houses, the widening of streets, allowing of a more free ventilation, the establishment of common sewers and drains, and the keeping of the streets free from filth, have no doubt greatly contributed to render the metropolis healthy, and of course to diminish the malignancy of epidemic fevers.

During the invasion of Egypt by Buonaparte, many experiments were instituted by Dr. Desgenette, and Messrs. Assalini and Larrey, the principal medical officers of the army, with a view to ascertain if plague was infectious. These gentlemen, finding that they could not communicate it by inoculation, declared it not to be contagious; but the experiments they made were by no means satisfactory, for, in the first place, the blood, and even the pus of a suppurated gland, of an infected subject, might be perfectly free from the matter of contagion, as we find the blood of a patient affected with measles, to be incapable of communicating the disease; and, in the next place, we know that a certain state of constitution is necessary to render it susceptible of the action of the matter of contagion. In some subsequent experiments by a French surgeon, the contagious nature of the disease was placed beyond a doubt: this surgeon was emboldened by the report of Dr. Desgenette and his colleagues, to inoculate himself and some soldiers with matter taken from a suppurated gland. In a few hours, he had reason to blame himself for temerity, being seized with the disease, which shortly terminated his life; the soldiers whom he had persuaded to submit to the experiment fell victims to it about the same time. As the operations were performed near the bodies of the infected, it is more probable that they received the disease by inhaling the effluvia from their bodies, than by inoculation. When the plague broke out in Cairo, at the time Sir Sidney Smith was off the coast, it was traced to the house of a Jew, who had opened a box of linen, which he had received from a part of Egypt that is never entirely free from plague; a few hours after it was opened, all the servants that were present were attacked by the plague, and from this house it rapidly spread throughout the city. Surely this circumstance affords indisputable evidence of the contagious nature of plague. We are informed that the medical man who contends that the disease is not contagious was sent by certain merchants of this metropolis, against whose interest the quarantine laws greatly operate, to Turkey, in order to collect the opinions of the physicians of that country respecting its contagious nature, or to ascertain by experiments if they were

correct. This man is blindly attached to the Brunonian system, and long before he received the commission, most obstinately contended for the non-contagious nature of plague—his chief argument for which is, that it is one of the wise laws of Providence that man should not be liable to the effects of a contagious disease more than once, as is the case with measles, small-pox, &c. persons having therefore been afflicted several times with plague, it cannot be in his opinion a contagious disease. A man so strongly prepossessed with this idea, was surely an improper person to send on such a commission. As the report of that man is unworthy of attention, the Legislature will no doubt see the necessity of obtaining the evidence of men of experience and integrity, of the real nature of the disease, before they abolish laws to which we are probably indebted for the non-appearance of this dreadful disease among us. A member of the House of Commons observed, that Dr. Roberts, who has held the appointment of Physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital for 20 years, had asserted that no instance had occurred during that time of typhus fever being communicated from those that were admitted with it, to the other patients or an attendant.—This we consider no decisive proof of the disease not being infectious, for the other patients being afflicted with disease, and under medicinal treatment, were not susceptible of its action.

Should the question of the contagious nature of plague be referred to a Select Committee of the House of Commons for investigation, we would recommend the members not only to examine those physicians of our own country, who have paid particular attention to epidemic fevers, as Dr. Percival, of Bath, Drs. Bateman and Armstrong, of London, but also Baron Larrey, of Paris, who paid particular attention to the phenomena of plague during his residence in Egypt.

Some accounts have been published by Dr. Allbin, of Constantinople, and Dr. Laford, of Salonichi, to show that vaccination has the power to destroy the susceptibility to the infection of the plague. It is stated that of 6000 persons vaccinated at Constantinople, not one became affected with the disease during a period when it was prevalent; and also that the Armenians are entirely free from it; in consequence of having been vaccinated. It does not appear that those who escaped the disease were exposed to the infection, and therefore no decided inferences can be drawn for such reports.

ANEURISM.—The application of a ligature to the carotid artery, for aneurism of that vessel, has lately been performed with success in St. Bartholomew's Hospital. The patient was a middle-aged man, and had been afflicted with the disease for about two years. No unpleasant symptom has followed the operation. Mr. Bond, Surgeon to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, has applied a ligature to the external iliac artery, in a case of femoral aneurism, with success. The operation was performed on the sixth of June, and the patient was discharged on the 16th of November, 1818.

EMPLOYMENT OF YOUTH IN MANUFACTORIES.—To some very sensible observations made by the very worthy Bishop of Chester, in the House of Lords, on the constitutional injury young people sustain by being employed for many hours together in the ma-

manufactories at Manchester, Leeds, &c. Lord Lauderdale replied, that he should be enabled to prove, by the certificates of respectable practitioners, that the health of young people was improved, and their comforts increased, by the labour to which they were subjected. One would suppose, that the unhealthy appearance of the young people thus employed, was alone sufficient to convince every person capable of observation, of the baneful effects of their employment; but after considering the extraordinary mortality of young people from the ages of ten to eighteen years, in manufacturing towns, and the diseases which terminated their lives, can any medical man have the effrontery to come forward to declare, in the face of his country, that early labour of such a kind can contribute to the health of young people? The diseases prevalent in manufacturing towns, among young subjects, are pulmonary consumption, tumefaction of the mesenteric glands, indigestion, chlorosis, and dropsy, which unquestionably are the effects of sedentary employment. If the whole muscular system be not regularly exercised, the circulation will become languid, the viscera of the chest and abdomen loaded, and glandular system obstructed. Hence the foundation of the most formidable diseases is laid, which produce little or no inconvenience till they arrive to an incurable stage. It is an object with certain master spinners, that with respect to health and happiness, the condition of the young people employed in their trade, is not less favourable than that of those engaged in other trades. By the reports of eleven manufactories, out of 4938 persons employed,

1658 were, when first employed, under 9 years of age.		
1667	ditto	from 9 to 11.
770	ditto	12 to 15.
371	ditto	16 to 19.
253	ditto	20 to 24.
122	ditto	25 to 29.
47	ditto	30 to 34.
26	ditto	35 to 39.
21	ditto	40 to 49.
3	ditto	50 to —.

It appears, therefore, that upwards of a third part of the 4938 persons, began to work in a cotton manufactory, before they were nine years of age. And, strange as it may seem, of the 3325 who began their labours under the age of twelve, only 197 lived to the age of thirty; nineteen to the age of forty, and only two to that of fifty! Surely, when such facts as these are duly reflected upon, and it is considered they are deduced from the statements of the master spinners themselves, some legislative control is greatly wanted for a system of labour, which subjects to its baneful operation children so young, whose numbers are even now increasing, and from the growing extent of the trade continually increases.

GALVANISM.—An account of some very interesting experiments performed by Dr. Ure, on the body of a criminal executed at Glasgow, on the 4th of November last, was read before the Literary Society of that place. The paper commences with some appropriate general, physiological views, relating to the application of galvanism, in which the author notices particularly the researches of Dr. Wilson

Philip, on the relation between Voltaic electricity and the phenomena of life, of which we have already given an account.

"The subject of these experiments was a middle-sized, athletic, and extremely muscular man, about thirty years of age. He had been suspended from the gallows nearly an hour, and made no convulsive struggle after he dropped; while a thief executed along with him, was violently agitated for a long time. He was taken to the Anatomical Theatre of Glasgow in about ten minutes after he was cut down. His face had a perfectly natural aspect, being neither livid nor tumefied; and there was no dislocation of his neck.

"Dr. Jeffray, the distinguished Professor of Anatomy, having on the preceding day requested Dr. Ure to perform the galvanic experiments, he sent to his theatre with this view, next morning, his *minor* voltaic battery, consisting of 270 pairs of four inch plates, with wires of communication, and pointed metallic rods with insulating handles, for the more commodious application of the electric power. About five minutes before the police officers arrived with the body, the battery was charged with a diluted nitro-sulphuric acid, which speedily brought it into a state of intense action. The dissections were skilfully executed by Mr. Marshall, under the superintendence of the Professor.

"Exp. 1.—The spinal marrow of the neck was exposed, and an incision made in the left hip, so as to bring the sciatic nerve into sight; and a small cut made in the heel. From neither of these did any blood flow. The pointed rod connected with one end of the battery, was now placed in contact with the spinal marrow, while the other rod was applied to the sciatic nerve. Every muscle of the body was immediately agitated with convulsive movements, resembling a violent shuddering from cold. The left side was most powerfully convulsed at each renewal of the electric contact. On moving the second rod from the hip to the heel, the knee being previously bent, the leg was thrown out with such violence, as nearly to overturn one of the assistants, who in vain attempted to prevent its extension.

"Exp. 2.—The left phrenic nerve was now laid bare, from three to four inches above the collar bone. Since this nerve is distributed to the diaphragm, and since it communicates with the heart through the eighth pair, it was expected, by transmitting the galvanic power along it, that the respiratory process would be renewed. Accordingly, a small incision having been made under the cartilage of the seventh rib, the point of the one insulating rod was brought into contact with the great head of the diaphragm, while the other point was applied to the phrenic nerve in the neck. This muscle, the main agent of respiration, was instantly contracted, but with less force than was expected. Satisfied from ample experience on the living body, that more powerful effects can be produced in galvanic excitation, by leaving the extreme communicating rods in close contact with the parts to be operated on, while the electric chain or circuit is completed, by running the end of the wires along the top of the plates in the last trough of either pole, the other wire being steadily immersed in the last cell of the opposite pole, the Dr. had immediately recourse to this method. The success of it was truly wonderful. Full, nay, laborious breathing, instantly commenced. The chest heaved, and fell; the belly was protruded, and

again collapsed, with the relaxing and retiring diaphragm. This process was continued, without interruption, as long as I continued the electric discharges.

"In the judgment of many scientific gentlemen who witnessed the scene, this respiratory experiment was perhaps the most striking ever made with a philosophic apparatus. Let it also be remembered, that for full half an hour before this period, the body had been well nigh drained of its blood, and the spinal marrow severely lacerated. No pulsation could be perceived meanwhile, at the heart or wrist; but it may be supposed, that, but for the evacuation of the blood, the essential stimulus of that organ, this phenomenon might also have occurred.

"Exp. 3.—The supra-orbital nerve he laid bare in the forehead, the one conducting-rod being applied to it, and the other to the heel, most extraordinary grimaces were exhibited every time that the electric discharges were made, by running the wire in the hand along the edges of the last trough, from the 220th to the 227th pair of plates; thus fifty shocks, each greater than the preceding one, were given in two seconds: every muscle in his countenance was simultaneously thrown into fearful action; rage, horror, despair, anguish, and ghastly smiles, united their hideous expression in the murderer's face, surpassing far the wildest representations of a Fuseli or a Kean. At this period several of the spectators were forced to leave the apartment, from terror or sickness, and one gentleman fainted.

"Exp. 4.—The last galvanic experiment consisted in transmitting the electric power from the spinal marrow to the ulnar nerve, as it passes by the internal condyle at the elbow: the fingers now moved nimbly, like those of a violin performer; an assistant who tried to close the fist, found the hand to open forcibly, in spite of his efforts. When the one rod was applied to a slight incision in the tip of the forefinger, the fist being previously clenched, that finger extended instantly; and from the convulsive agitation of the arm, he seemed to point to the different spectators, some of whom thought he had come to life." An hour was spent in these experiments, when an experiment was made with a view of determining the quantity of residual air in the lungs. In deliberating on the above galvanic phenomena, we are almost willing to imagine, that if, without cutting into and wounding the spinal marrow and blood-vessels of the neck, the pulmonary organs had been set a playing at first, (as the doctor proposed) by electrifying the phrenic nerve (which may be done without any dangerous incision,) there is a probability that life might have been restored. This event, however little desirable with a murderer, and perhaps contrary to law, would yet have been pardonable in one instance, as it would have been highly honourable and useful to science. From the accurate experiments of Dr. Philip, it appears that the action of the diaphragm and lungs, is indispensable towards restoring the suspended action of the heart and great vessels, subservient to the circulation of the blood. It is known that death-like lethargy, or suspended animation, from disease and accidents, have occurred, where life has returned, after longer interruption of its functions than in the subject of the preceding experiment. It is probable, when apparent death supervenes from suffocation with noxious gases, &c.

and when there is no organic læsion, that a judiciously directed galvanic experiment will, if any thing will, restore the activity of the vital functions. The plans of administering voltaic electricity hitherto pursued in such cases, are defective. No advantage, we perceive, is likely to accrue from passing electric discharges across the chest, directly through the heart and lungs. On the principles so well developed by Dr. Philip, and now illustrated on Clydsdale's body, we should transmit along the channel of the nerves, that substitute for nervous influence, or that power which may perchance awaken its dormant faculties. Then, indeed, fair hopes may be formed of deriving extensive benefit from galvanism; and of raising this wonderful agent to its expected rank, among the ministers of health and life to man.

The doctor suggests another nervous channel, which he conceives to be a still readier and more powerful one, to the action of the heart and lungs, than the phrenic nerve. If a longitudinal incision be made, as is frequently done for aneurism, through the integuments of the neck at the outer edge of the *sterno-mastoides* muscle, about half way between the clavicle and angle of the lower jaw: then on turning over the edge of this muscle, we bring into view the throbbing carotid, on the outside of which, the *par vagum*, and great sympathetic nerve, lie together in one sheath. Here, therefore, they may both be directly touched and pressed by a blunt metallic conductor. These nerves communicate directly, or indirectly, with the phrenic; and the superficial nerve of the heart is sent off from the sympathetic. Should, however, the phrenic nerve be taken, that of the left side is the preferable of the two. From the position of the heart, the left phrenic differs a little in its course from the right by passing over the *pericardium*, covering the *apex* of the heart.

While the point of one metallic conductor is applied to the nervous cords above described, the other knob ought to be firmly pressed against the side of the person, immediately under the cartilage of the seventh rib. The skin should be moistened with a solution of common salt, or, what is better, a hot saturated solution of sal-ammoniac, by which means the electric energy will be more effectually conveyed through the cuticle, so as to complete the voltaic chain.

To lay bare the nerves above described, requires no formidable incision, nor does it demand more anatomical skill, or surgical dexterity, than every practitioner of the healing art ought to possess. We should always bear in mind, that the subject of experiment is at least insensible to pain; and that life is at stake, perhaps irrecoverably gone. And assuredly, if we place the risk and difficulty of the operations in competition with the blessings and glory consequent on success, they will weigh as nothing with the intelligent and humane. It is possible, indeed, that two small brass knobs, covered with cloth moistened with solution of sal-ammoniac, pressed above and below on the place of the nerve, and the diaphragmatic region, may suffice without any surgical operation. This may first be tried. Immersion of the body in cold water accelerates greatly the extinction arising from suffocation; and hence less hopes must be entertained of recovering drowned persons after a considerable interval, than when the vital heat has been suffered to continue with little abatement. None

of the ordinary practices should ever on such occasions be neglected. For it is surely criminal to spare any pains which may contribute, in the slightest degree, to recal the fleeting breath of man to its cherished mansion.

DEAFNESS.—SIRS,—In your No. 33, a correspondent of Lincoln's Inn, favoured the public with a cure for deafness, by the application of bay salt, and in the 34th number, I pointed out the necessity for the exercise of *judgment* in the application of remedies. Your correspondent from Lincoln's Inn, has not thought proper to mention the cases, to which the same remedy proposed by Chemicus in your last number is applicable; indeed your last correspondent tells us it *will not* answer in an indefinite variety of cases, but he omits to tell us in what cases it *will* succeed. I therefore shall rest upon my former ground, until I know to what species of deafness it may thus be successfully applied; because if that general term deafness be used, without particularising the symptoms of the complaint, which it is well known are so various in their origin, and effects, I cannot lose my time, by reasoning with a person, who must understand so little of the structure of these delicate parts, and to which the application of such remedies as he advises, may in peculiar states of them, occasion considerable mischief.

Chemicus is not intelligible as to his *common* and *uncommon* remedies; if he will be more explicit, he will enable your other correspondents to reply to him.—I am, Sirs, your obedient Servant,

London, Feb. 23, 1819.

W. WRIGHT,

Surgeon Aurist to her late Majesty.

PULMONARY CONSUMPTION —Dr. Roos of Petersburg, informs us, that he continues to employ the vapour of tar (noticed in a former number), in the early and even advanced stages of pulmonary consumption, with the most decided advantage. He observes, that it uniformly allays cough and corrects the discharge of the lungs. Previous to its inhalation, the whole body of the patient is subjected to the vapour of water, which he has found to abate hectic fever and diminish the action of the heart and arteries. During the use of these remedies, the patients are restricted from the use of wine, but not animal food.

ABDOMINAL BANDAGE.—We have received a letter from a clergyman of high rank in the established church, in which he observes, "I have received such essential benefit from the use of the abdominal bandages, recommended by you, that I am now able to walk eight miles without experiencing fatigue, when, prior to its use, I was not equal to a walk of one mile. I can also go through the whole of my church duty with perfect ease. The symptoms my medical attendant attributed to a disordered state of the liver have entirely left me."

ANATOMY OF THE EAR.—Mr. Wright, surgeon-aurist to her late Majesty, is preparing for publication, a coloured plate of the human ear, taken from nature, which will be accompanied with explanatory letter-press, wherein the causes of deafness will be pointed out in a manner easy to be comprehended by every person afflicted.

We are happy to announce to our readers, that a work of this nature is in progress, because any mode of conveying a knowledge of

the diseases affecting the organ of hearing, must be highly satisfactory to every person labouring under such a distressing complaint.

The same gentleman is also preparing for the press, an investigation of the properties and real usefulness of electricity, in a medical point of view, being the substance of a course of lectures, *written* and delivered by Mr. Wright on this subject to highly respectable audiences, amongst whom were some of the first medical characters in the west of England.

We understand the basis of this work will be a candid examination of the labours of all who have written on the subject; we look forward to the appearance of it with much expectation, particularly as we learn it has been a matter of study and experience with Mr. Wright, at all his leisure moments, for these last twenty-five years, and his assistance has frequently been resorted to by practitioners of eminence both in town and country.

TYPHUS FEVER, &c.—Mr. Dixon, surgeon at Witham, contradicts a statement which appeared in a late number, that a fever of a virulent nature had been prevalent in that place and neighbourhood. The information was transmitted to us by a very respectable physician, who received it from an inhabitant at Witham. As our correspondent does not live far from the neighbourhood, we hope to be enabled to state in our next number, whether the fever only existed in the brain of his informant, as Mr. Dixon states, or among the inhabitants as he asserts. As Mr. Dixon is a surgeon of skill and integrity, and the person from whom the information was received is not a medical man, we may suppose the latter may be in error, although he states, that the church yard, from the number of burials of those who had fallen a sacrifice to the contagion, exhibited the appearance of a recently ploughed ground.

Mr. Dixon admits, that several cases of failure of cow-pox, as a preventive of small-pox, have occurred there, but in every case, with one or two exceptions, the small-pox was so peculiarly mild, that the patients very rapidly recovered. He adds, that he has lately met with six cases of natural small-pox, the subjects of which had unquestionably gone through the disease by inoculation, one an old woman forty years of age; to this patient it proved fatal, and in the other it was severe.

TENDER, EXCORIATED, OR CHAPPED NIPPLES.—Mr. Steedman, chemist of Walworth, has invented a medicated shield, which not only protects the nipples from the friction of linen and pressure of stays, but preserves them from excoriation or chaps, and prevents the irritating effects of frequent suckling. When the skin is excoriated or chapped, it also speedily allays the attendant irritation, and heals the surface. This invention is highly creditable to Mr. Steedman, and to those mothers or nurses, who experience pain and inconvenience at the time of suckling, in consequence of the natural tender state of the nipples, will no doubt prove a source of great comfort.

EMBALMING.—Mr. Brookes, the eminent Lecturer on Anatomy and Surgery, in London, has, by means of injecting the sanguiferous system with a spirituous solution of the oxymuriate of quicksilver, and by frequent ablution of the surface of the body with alcohol, preserved the

dead body of a Negro from putrefaction. The body is now perfectly dry, and although it has been kept twelve years, does not exhibit any appearance of decay. By filling the blood vessels with naphtha, and frequently washing the external surface with it, the body of a man has also been preserved in great perfection. The petroleum (from whence naphtha is obtained) being exceedingly abundant in Egypt, was probably with it, that the ancients preserved dead bodies; if so, the injection of the blood vessels with the volatile parts of the petroleum; and the external use of it, is an improvement on the ancient method of embalming, as by it the skin, features, and form of the person are preserved in great perfection.

MANURE.—Sirs, As you occasionally admit into your valuable pages useful hints on the interesting subject of agriculture, I transmit to you, a process for the decomposition of green vegetables, which I have practised with great success in the counties of Norfolk and of Suffolk. I am principally induced to make this communication in consequence of a visit I paid last summer to a respectable friend of mine, who is the proprietor of a corn mill on the river Avon, at Downton, in Wiltshire. During my stay with him, I went to see a large tract of newly inclosed land, on the borders of the New Forest, of which my friend had a considerable allotment. On my return from this survey, I observed the labourers at the mill, busily engaged in forcing down the stream a great quantity of vegetable matter, deeming it an accumulation of worthless note. I suggested to him the advantage I presumed he might obtain, by endeavouring by the undermentioned mode of turning these floating materials that were constantly forming a body at the head of the mill, to a profitable account, and if the local facilities that afford themselves for the execution of the same, there being a lime kiln immediately adjoining the new inclosures, and the distance of them from the mill; not exceeding half a mile. Should any of your readers be ignorant of this practice, they will, I think, be obliged, by your giving publicity to the following instructions for expeditiously converting green vegetable into manure. Place a layer of vegetable matter a foot thick, then a thin layer of lime, alternately; in a few hours the decomposition will begin, and unless prevented by sods, or a forkful of vegetables, will break out into a blaze; this must be guarded against; in 24 hours the process will be complete. Weeds of every description will answer for vegetables, two pounds worth of lime will produce manure for 4 acres. Use the vegetables as soon after cutting as possible, and the lime as fresh from the kiln as distance will allow. I am, Your constant reader,

Dorking, Feb. 16, 1819.

J. M.

BEER.—The process of M. Kirchoff, for converting starch into sugar, by means of sulphuric acid, has already received some useful applications; but the most useful is, doubtless, the conversion of this sugar into beer. Dissolved in a proper quantity of water, fermented, and, according to the method of brewers, impregnated with the bitter quality of the hop, it furnishes a beer which is light, brisk, strong, and agreeable to the palate. This refreshing and healthy beverage is easily prepared, requiring neither mill nor expensive vessels; so that a cottager may make it. Already two manufacturers are employed in preparing it in quantities in France, who estimate that it will only cost a farthing a gallon.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 40.]

To APRIL 1, 1819.

[VOL. IV.]

OF SIR WALTER FARQUHAR, BART. M.D.

Physician to the Prince Regent, &c. &c.

THIS distinguished physician is the son of a clergyman of the north of Scotland, who was highly esteemed for rational piety and profound erudition.—Sir Walter received the rudiments of his professional education under the scientific Dr. Gregory, of Aberdeen, where he cultivated with great ardour, an acquaintance with the different branches of medicine, mathematics, and moral philosophy, and after a residence of four years, took the degree of Master of Arts. He afterwards pursued his favourite studies in Edinburgh and Glasgow, where he was highly respected by the professors. Having completed his professional education, his active mind led him to prefer the army to a confined or stationary practice. He accordingly obtained the appointment of surgeon to the 19th regiment, at the age of twenty-three; soon after which, he had the honour to attend Lord Howe on his being wounded at the memorable siege of Belleisle, to whom he gave so much satisfaction that insured his lordship's future esteem. The regiment being ordered to Gibraltar, Mr. Farquhar, ambitious of further knowledge, obtained leave of absence to proceed to France, where he remained nearly eighteen months, visiting the most celebrated hospitals in the society of the first physicians and surgeons.—At Rouen, he took up his abode with the celebrated Le Cat, director of the famous hospital of that place. A short time after he joined his regiment in Gibraltar, his advice was resorted to in all cases of difficulty by the inhabitants, and his general practice, in consequence, soon became very considerable. Finding his health to be on the decline, he resigned his appointment, and returned to London, where he commenced practice as a medical surgeon. Here the indefatigable attention he paid to his patients, and the success of his treatment, advanced him so rapidly into eminence, that he was soon at the head of the profession, taking the lead even of Royal Physicians and Hospital Surgeons. This unprecedented success his biographer justly attributes to "superior judgment, integrity of mind, unsophisticated manners, benevolence, and general knowledge of human nature."

Soon after his settlement in London, he married Mrs. Harvie, (widow of a respectable physician of Jamaica) whose very affable and pleasing manners, and benevolent disposition, rendered her an object of respect and admiration in the first circles. Mr. Farquhar being desirous to retire from the fatigue of practice, took a doctor's degree in medicine; but he was greatly deceived in his expectation of enjoying more leisure hours; for although this step excited the

jealousy and opposition of the leading physicians, he soon found himself involved in an extent of respectable practice, not exceeded in the history of physic, to the great mortification of his opponents. He was not only physician to men of the first abilities in the state; as Mr. Pitt, Lord Melville, Dr. Pretymann, &c., but was their most intimate associate—a proof that his knowledge was not merely professional. He was soon afterwards advanced to the dignity of Baronet, and received the appointment of physician to the Prince Regent, which he still holds. An affection of the lungs, occasionally aggravated by over-anxious attention to his patients, has repeatedly compelled Sir Walter to have recourse to a temporary retirement from practice; but it was not till the year 1813 that he determined to give up general practice, since which his attendance has been exclusively confined to the Prince Regent, and those families to which his attention has endeared him. About twelve months ago, the affection of his chest ran so high, that the physicians who were in attendance, unanimously gave their opinion that his valuable life was rapidly drawing to a termination. His breathing became so laborious, his pulse so weak, and the powers of the system were so reduced, that they did not expect him to survive many hours. Sir Walter attributing his debility to a congestion of the vessels of the lungs, expressed a wish to lose blood. This was opposed on the supposition that by weakening the system, it would accelerate the fatal event. Sir Walter, thinking otherwise, insisted upon the operation being performed, which was accordingly done. The consequences were, the blood was transmitted through the lungs with facility, the pulse became more full, the breathing more easy, and the lips instead of a purple exhibited a florid red colour; and in two days, instead of his friends hearing of his death as they had been led to expect, they had the great happiness to learn that he was out of danger!!

It is indeed by no means a pleasant office to delineate the character of living persons. No man, as an ancient writer observes, can be said to have lived till he has ceased to live: without however, administering the nauseating food of flattery, we can fairly say that Sir Walter Farquhar has supported a distinguished reputation as a physician, which few have attained, and which few would have borne with such perfect moderation. Like the great Sydenham, to whom in the leading features of his character he may be aptly compared, he has met in his progress the illiberal jealousy of a pompous set of pretended *regular* physicians, which he totally disregarded, and without any effort he soon overcame. If any proof of superior intellectual powers was required, the circumstance of his being an intimate associate of a Pitt, a Melville, or a Pretymann, is alone sufficient.

Among Sir Walter's friendly acts, may be noticed the very liberal support and the unbounded nature of the patronage he has bestowed on young candidates for advancement in the profession. But there is one prominent feature in his character which peculiarly marks the possession of talents, viz. the implicit confidence uniformly reposed

in him by his patients—an indisputable proof that their opinions were verified by facts; and of that superiority and marked decision which a man of strong natural understanding always displays. To young practitioners (for whose benefit we are induced to give memoirs of living practitioners) it will appear evident that this distinguished individual owes his success in life to a sound discriminating judgment and conscientious conduct. Such a man, though the rage of fashion may have ceased, will ever stand high in public estimation and private esteem.—It is greatly to be regretted that the example of Sydenham, the faithful and accurate recorder of nature, has not been followed by succeeding physicians of sound and accurate judgment. How much more valuable would be the experience of a Farquhar, a Halford, or a Babbington, than a hundred volumes of the closet speculator.

INSANITY.—Dr. Kinglake, in a late publication, condemns the prevailing practice of copious bleeding, in maniacal affections of the brain. Mr. G. Nesse Hill, of Chester, in his able Essay on the Prevention and Cure of Insanity, also censures this treatment, and observes, that it is common only with professional gentlemen who do not attempt, nor indeed wish to take further steps than to reduce maniacal delirium, by diminishing the quantity of blood. This practice, says Mr. H. is as indiscriminate as it is frequent, and merits high reprobation, notwithstanding it has the sanction of ages and names, illustrious in public opinion. “No sooner is the existing disease determined to belong to the class mania, or indeed lunacy in any shape, but bleeding, hellebore, chains, coercion, starving, and dark dungeons crowded on the mind of the practitioner. Extraction of blood takes the lead, which, on failing to reduce the raging, miserable and loathed sufferer to calmness, it is again and again repeated, by which the number of incurables is daily increased.” Mr. Hill notices two cases to illustrate the bad effects of indiscriminate bleeding. One was bled thirteen times, till he fainted (each time) in the course of six days. Mr. H. admits that he recovered, but he soon afterwards relapsed. In the other case he states, “It was supposed that the patient was bled to death, without producing any alteration in the complaint!!” In a late communication on the baneful effects of bleeding in cases of mania, Mr. Hill, alluding to the melancholy case of Sir Samuel Romilly, observes, “at this momentary crisis it would be almost an unpardonable violation of feeling to close this letter without remarking that eventful time has again disclosed to our pained senses a striking, and, if we choose it, a salutary though severe lesson on the tremendous consequences of defective energy in the prompt and effectual treatment of nascent, but decisive, mental aberration, and the ultimate prevention of suicide. Shall the shock which public feeling has recently sustained be merged in the stream of common events, and merely serve to “point a moral or adorn a tale”? Or shall it be improved to the benefit of the present rising generation? Among the medical faculty, there will not surely be a solitary instance of one member so lost to the honor and glory of his profession, as not to rouse himself to the determination, that no part of the circle which his individual practice embraces, shall want the timely scrutiny, so eminently calculated to prevent the repetition of events so truly deplorable, and when committed, so uselessly regretted. A subject of greater moment cannot occupy the attention of the Profession. Impressed with this conviction, it is neither arrogance nor presumption to those who have perused his work on the doctrines and plan of treatment laid down in the chapter on the prevention of insanity; a very cursory reperusal will convince them that

had the principles there inculcated been faithfully acted upon, the great man alluded to would, in all human probability, still have breathed the vital air."

Insane subjects are liable to plethora, and to a preternatural determination of blood to the head, when bleeding never fails to quiet the system, and to abate the inordinate actions of the mind; but when the intellectual functions of the brain are disordered by a sudden shock of the mind, or by violent mental perturbation, there is uniformly a considerable determination of blood to the brain: and in such case, surely no professional man would hesitate as to the propriety of extracting blood in proportion to the degree of general plethora. In the case of Sir Samuel Romilly, we do not find that the medical attendants did have recourse to the practice which Dr. Kinglake and Mr. Hill so much reprobate. Had it been adopted, and instead of taking him to his house, where almost every object must aggravate his affliction, by reminding him of the extent of his loss, his medical attendants had diverted his mind from his heavy calamity by change of scene, and particularly by visiting those places of the Continent which were likely to afford subjects of sufficient interest, to excite his attention, might not the result have been different? To take a patient directly from a place of deep affliction to one which must necessarily keep up irritation of the wound the mind had received, appears to us highly injudicious; but we are told Sir Samuel was attentively watched by affectionate medical skill—his two physicians being near relatives, and men of profound judgment. Dr. Kinglake and Mr. Hill should make some distinction between morbid excitement of brain from sudden mental affliction and chronic or constitutional insanity.

COW POX.—At no period since the introduction of this disease among the human race has the faith of its efficacy in the minds of medical men, and in public opinion been diminished, as it has been within the last two months, in various parts of the united kingdom. Amid a good deal of doubt, some scepticism and much gratuitous confidence, the minds of the uninformed have not regardlessly looked up to the vacillating countenances of their medical friends, and have readily seized every fact that had a tendency to diminish confidence in its preventive powers. More than one half of the last number of the Edinburgh Medical and Physical Journal is occupied with remarks on the present state of vaccination, by Mr. Black, an eminent surgeon of Newton Stewart, and Mr. Brown, of Musselburg, formerly a strong advocate for the practice, which the editors themselves acknowledge have shaken their confidence in its preventive powers against small pox. The fact which extensive and attentive impartial investigation have brought to the observation of these gentlemen, and especially those which have recently occurred to a considerable extent in various parts of Europe, have made such an impression on the minds of many intelligent practitioners, as to induce them to communicate the results to the public; all, however, allow that it has the power of diminishing the virulence of small pox, but it does not afford a certain security against its contagion. Mr. Brown observes, that experience and experiment have satisfactorily shewn that on exposure to epidemic small pox, some years after having undergone vaccination, the individual will be more or less influenced by the contagion; and if inoculation with small pox matter be again resorted to, some years after vaccination, not only the perfect local

phenomena of small pox inoculation will be obtained, but also fever and eruption; and these two tests will now in general exert their influence on the constitution, exactly in conformity with the distance of vaccination. For the first two or three years after the introduction of vaccination, we did not hear of any thing like a failure; indeed, even after the expiration of four years, so confident was Dr. George Pearson of its preventive powers, that he offered a premium of a hundred pounds for a well authenticated case of failure. Many cases of small pox after vaccination were afterwards produced by some practitioners in London, at the Doctor's Dispensary, but we never heard of any instance of his having fulfilled his promises; the claim, in *his* opinion, not having been fairly made out. From every part of the world where vaccination has been introduced, the reports we receive are adverse to the reputation of cow pox; and at the present period we think no medical man, who has a regard for his character, will deny that the cases of failure are increasing to an alarming degree. It appears, where the small pox contagion in a concentrated state is allowed to operate on persons who have been vaccinated six years, that it will exercise its usual influence. Mr. Brown observes, that none escaped at the distance of six years after vaccination, that were placed in circumstances favorable for the operation of the epidemic; very few at four years, and the greatest number who resisted the contagion were either within four years, or were not exposed to a concentrated, or extensive application of the contagion; and he decidedly expresses his opinion, that there is no mode of communicating cow pox by inoculation, which can permanently secure a person against small pox. The cow pox, conducted by Dr. Jenner himself, at public institutions, and in private practice by respectable surgeons, by ministers, midwives, or farriers, has equally failed. The cases of failures having been more numerous among the lower than the higher classes of society, the supporters of vaccination have insinuated that the medical men have paid more attention to the process among the latter than the former, and this insinuation, Mr. Brown observes, is madness itself to suppose that medical men could be so base and wicked as to have vaccinated the rich perfectly, and the poor imperfectly; and indeed, if this were the fact, the utility of our vaccine establishment would be more than questionable, as their practice is almost exclusively confined to the lower orders of the community. With respect to some opinions of determined supporters of vaccination, that small pox, chicken pox, and modified small pox, after cow pox, arise from the same contagion, Mr. Brown considers too absurd for comment.

At Newton Stewart, where small pox has prevailed, Mr. Black observes, that when preceded by cow pox, it appears in a more or less mild form. Many cases even exhibited no pustules, correctly speaking, but hard vesicles of more or less tubercular appearance; they were on this account termed by the people, *horn-pox*. Mr. Black has given the following summary of one hundred cases, indiscriminately taken in one quarter of the town, which occurred in his own practice, for the purpose of exhibiting the various degrees of small pox after vaccination.

Summary of One Hundred Cases.

		Vacci- nated.	Inocu- lated by Sm ^l Pox.	Recover- ed.	Died.
Of Small Pox	43	10	1	30	13
Modified or Horn Pox ..	47	44	0	47	0
Apparent Chicken Pox ..	10	8	0	10	0
	100	62	1	87	13

To two of the patients who had gone through vaccination, the disease proved fatal. It may be remarked, says Mr. Black, though no certain stress can be laid upon it as an *infallible* test for what may happen, that the more complete and genuine appearance of the eicatrix, the greater is the power of the constitution to resist small pox contagion. If this observation (which was made by us more than ten years ago) should be found not to account for the failure of cow pox, " then, says Mr. Black, we are obliged *reluctantly* to allow that vaccination in its most perfect manner, bestows but an insecurity from small pox, varying from a shade of protection to that of an insurance, neither infallible nor uniform in its proofs, but until we are driven to the diminished alternative, it is incumbent on the profession and the public to be most scrupulous in all possible verification, in every case, of a bomb that seemed to burst on the world like a specific dispensation from heaven, and not suffer the merits of a benign blessing to be obscured or fritted away by either negligence or misrepresentation. Mr. Brown remarks, since it can no longer be denied that small pox has succeeded the most perfect form of vaccination, the friends of the latter have discovered that the mildness or severity of the first attack will be followed by no increase of the second attack, but will be found to mitigate it; thereby insinuating that the previous mild disease of cow pox will always produce mitigated small pox. These gentlemen, adds Mr. Brown, formerly contented themselves with producing a very small number of instances of small pox having occurred twice in the same person; but since the failures have increased, they do not hesitate to produce them in a proportionate ratio. From the first introduction of vaccination we have been friendly to the practice, and, indeed, on the first promulgation of its preventive powers against small pox contagion, we considered it a very important discovery, and among the profession, no one could feel more deeply its failure in affording the security which the public was led to expect from it against a fulsome and dangerous disease. From our own experience, and the information we receive from different quarters of the world, we are fearful that instead of a preventive, it is only to be considered a mitigator of small pox; we are, however, of opinion, that had it been universally adopted at the time its influence on small pox contagion was discovered by Dr. Jenner, that the contagion of small pox might have been destroyed in Europe. That it is a mitigator of small pox no man will deny. We shall conclude this article with

an extract from the register of the Small Pox Hospital, for twenty years before the practice of vaccination, and twenty years since its introduction, of the number of deaths by casual small pox, and also the number reported by the parish clerks of London.

<i>Before the Introduction of Vaccination.</i>			<i>After the Introduction of Vaccination.</i>		
From 1779 to 1798..	Hospital Register.	Parish Register.	From 1799 to 1818..	Hospital Register.	Parish Register.
	1867	36189		814	22480

By this statement it appears, that the decreased deaths since the practice of vaccination has been introduced at the hospital, amount to 1053, and in the parish to no less than 13709. The cow pox was introduced into practice at the hospital, by Dr. W. Woodville, with matter taken from a cow, belonging to a celebrated cow-keeper, Mr. Harrison, of Gray's Inn Road, on the 19th January, 1799. Six patients were then vaccinated in the presence of Sir Joseph Banks, Bart. Sir W. Watson, Drs. Garthshore, George Pearson, Robert Willan, and several other medical gentlemen. The number vaccinated at the hospital from that date to the 1st of January, 1819, amounts to 43,396.

In the bills of mortality, by the company of parish clerks of London, for the last year, the name of cow pox does not appear, and the deaths by small pox, instead of thousands, amount only to 421; this circumstance is an indisputable evidence of the mitigating power of vaccination.

PULMONARY CONSUMPTION, &c.—In a very interesting work from the pen of Mr. John G. Mansford, an able surgeon, on the influence of situation on pulmonary consumption, and on the duration of life, the author states he has satisfactorily ascertained by experiments, that on an elevation of five hundred feet, the circulation becomes more rapid. If this effect be produced on a healthy subject, how much more considerable will it be when the system is rendered irritable by disease, and the substance of the lungs is in a morbid state.—This elevation diminishes the average of the pressure of the atmosphere somewhat more than a sixtieth part, or nearly six hundred pounds, on the surface of the human body. The result of Mr. Mansford's enquiries, evinces a striking affinity between the points of elevation and the mortality from pulmonary consumption. Local causes, independent of the weight of air, have unquestionably considerable influence in exciting or modifying organic disease of the lungs; but the range taken by Surgeon Mansford, in the county of Somerset, in which he has chiefly pursued his enquiries, the general correspondence between elevation and the frequency of pulmonary consumption is so very evident, as to leave no doubt of the fact, viz. that elevated places are very inimical to consumptive subjects. In the elevation of 672 feet, Mr. Mansford ascertained the average mortality from consumption to be 407 to 1000, whilst in the low plain, which on the average did not rise above 45 feet from the level of the sea, the proportion of deaths from the disease was not more than 152 to 1000. This relative prevalence

of consumption in high and low situations, although leading to an inference very satisfactory, does not afford a true measure of the effect we may expect will be produced by a removal to the one situation of a person who has resided in the other: where there is an evident predisposition to the disease, or where its admonitory symptoms have shewn themselves, a removal to a lower situation may avert the mischief, and when the disease has advanced, may retard its progress. On the other hand, quitting the accustomed situation to reside in a higher one, may call the disease into immediate action; and where it has commenced, may accelerate its progress. The natural powers of the constitution, in the situation to which it has been accustomed, may be able to maintain for a time the struggle with the deadly foe, and to postpone the visible advances of disease; but if a powerful auxiliary be abandoned by removing to a more elevated scite, the disease once liberated from constitutional controul, will advance with great rapidity. The fatality attending pulmonary consumption in the numerous cases which are reported to have resorted to Richmond in Yorkshire, illustrates this fact—To remove to a situation higher than that a consumptive patient had inhabited in any stage of the disease, is to run into the very jaws of death.

Extending his enquiries into the comparative prevalence of consumption in low situations, Mr. Mansford found in the vicinity of the sea, some circumstances connected with it, which countervailed the advantage of a dense atmosphere, which increased the mortality from pulmonary consumption, above what it is in low inland situations. Places of the latter kind, whose temperature is more regular, and somewhat higher, with protection from the north and east by hills, are to be selected for consumptive subjects. The situation in this country, Mr. Mansford has found the low ground which extends southward from the Mendip Hills, to be most friendly to the consumptive. The geographical position of this place, is in the south western part of the island. The protection afforded by the range of hills towards the north, and the lowness of its level, whilst spots may be chosen sufficiently raised above the marshy lands, to escape the prejudicial influence of marsh effluvia, without being so high as to defeat the object in view, Mr. Mansford is of opinion, points it out as one of the most eligible. To these physical advantages, may be added the varied and romantic scenery of the neighbourhood, which cannot fail to charm those who possess a relish for the beauties of nature, while the taste and habits of individuals may be gratified in the society of a city, or the seclusion of a village.

The second part of the work is devoted to the consideration of the influence of atmosphere pressure in prolonging or shortening life. In the first part he has shewn that high and low situations have considerable influence on the vital powers, the former increasing the excitement of the system, and the latter in diminishing it. In advanced life, where the powers of the system are languid, on diminishing the pressure of atmosphere, by resorting to an elevated situation, the actions of the machine will be carried on with less expenditure of the vital principle.—Statistical reports prove the greater

average longevity of the inhabitants of high situations; This however may not arise entirely from a lighter atmosphere, but no doubt it has the largest share of influence; for when the external pressure of the body of an aged person is increased by a dense air, the vital powers must necessarily be oppressed.

GENERAL DEBILITY OF THE SYSTEM.—A Clergyman residing in Yorkshire, states in a letter of the 16th instant, that he has been restored to perfect health by taking the mixture of lime and Peruvian bark, made according to the prescription of the late Dr. Hutchinson of Dublin, and that since he has taken it he has remained free from gouty pains in the knees and feet, to which he had previously been very subject. The effects it has had on the gouty irritation of the extremities, his Physician (an intimate friend) attributed to the lime. Through the medium of this work he begs to return his sincere thanks to Sir John Jarvis White Jarvis, Bart. for having communicated to the public the recipe for making so valuable a medicine for indigestion, and general debility of the muscular system.

A nobleman, who has long laboured under general debility of the nervous system, attended with great dejection of spirits and indigestion, informs us that he has been restored to a perfect state of health by galvanism; under the direction of Mr. Le Beaume, and by inhaling oxygen gas; for a knowledge of which he states he stands indebted to this work. He adds, that he had been under the care of several physicians and surgeons; eminent for their knowledge of complaints of the liver; and that he firmly believes, had he followed their advice, he should, at the time he wrote the letter, have been an inhabitant of the world of spirits. On mentioning these remedies to a learned physician, he observed, with an indignant smile, that they might set on the imagination of hypochondriacs or people of weak intellects!!

UTERINE HÆMORRHAGE.—*Sym.*—In *active* hæmorrhage from the womb, which is known by the intenseness of motion in the vascular system, and preceded by head-ache, vertigo, difficulty of breathing, occasional chilliness; followed by flushing heat; the use of the lancet I have found indispensable, but the quantity of blood taken from the arm at each time should never exceed *two ounces*, as the pulse rises, and gives to the finger on pressure, a wiry jerk, so ought a repetition of the bleeding to be recommended. This plan, followed up by the following medical treatment, I have found effectually to succeed after the usual remedies had failed, and where the patients had been reduced to a state bordering on dissolution. If you think this communication in so serious a disease, accompanied with the prescription alluded to, *any way* worthy of insertion in your valuable Monthly Publication, I should be happy to renew the subject at an early opportunity, I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ARNALL THOMAS FAYERMAN.

89, Aldersgate Street, March 25, 1819.

Take of tincture of gum kino, one drachm; dilute nitric acid, nine drops; cinnamon water, one ounce. Mix, and form a draught; one to be taken every three or four hours.

Take of extract of hemlock, three grains; nitrate of ammonia; two

grains. Mix and form a pill; to be taken every night at the hour of bed-time.

It is necessary that the bowels should be kept regularly open, which ought to be done by the mildest means, such as castor oil, or two tea-spoonsful of Epsom salt dissolved in a wine glass of peppermint water. The patient should be debarred the use of warm drinks, the feet should be raised when in bed, and the body kept cool.

EXCESSIVE FLOW of BLOOD after EXTRACTION of a TOOTH.—Mr. Cullen, a surgeon of experience, of Sheerness, having noticed the extraordinary case of loss of blood after the extraction of teeth, which appeared in one of our early numbers, has been induced to publish the following simple mode of treatment, which he has adopted with success on such emergencies, and which, he flatters himself, will succeed in the practice of others in similar cases.—“Take a *small fine vial cork*, of a size adapted to the socket from whence the tooth was extracted, then with a small dossel of lint wet it in the styptic water, and put it on the smallest end of the cork; push the cork into the bleeding orifice, pressing it *firmly* in till it be, as it were, wedged in the socket, and keep it there as long as may be necessary, desiring the patient to further press against it with the teeth of the opposite jaw till the bleeding be stopped, which it is almost instantly. This (he observes) acts as a tourniquet, and gives you time to use whatever other means you may deem requisite. But it is seldom that any thing else is required.” Mr. Cullen having made this communication to the Editors of the *Edinburgh Medical and Physical Journal*, we have not presumed to alter his language.—The case to which Mr. Cullen alludes has only appeared in our Journal; and we have reason to believe that had we not noticed it, and the formidable operation to which Mr. Brodie had recourse, viz. the application of a ligature to the trunk of the carotid artery, we believe the case would never have been communicated to the *Medico-chirurgical Society*. The reason given by Mr. Brodie for having had recourse to such a measure, and the cause of the death of the patient, to us were so extraordinary and so far-fetched, that we declined to take any further notice of it. As Mr. Cullen has thought proper to revive the subject, we shall give Mr. Brodie's account of it in our next number, with the observations of an eminent lecturer on surgery, as well as our own. The method of stopping the bleeding, proposed by Mr. Cullen, is less likely to succeed than that of an introduction of a piece of sponge, as suggested by our correspondent at Exmouth.

PURULENT INFLAMMATION of the EYES of INFANTS.

—In three cases of this disease, which of late years has been very prevalent in this metropolis, and but too frequently terminates in blindness, a medical gentleman has found the application of a blister to the nape of the neck to prove highly beneficial. In the first instance, after giving the remedies usually employed a fair trial, without any advantage; so immediate were the beneficial results of this new treatment, as to astonish him. In the three cases he has

since employed the remedy, it has completely succeeded in ten days. He concludes his communication with the observation, that the blister should not be *very small*. The practice is by no means new, and is, no doubt, a powerful auxiliary to the topical application of a weak solution of acetite of copper, and alterative aperient remedies, recommended in an early number. To a blister alone no experienced surgeon would trust.

MEASLES.—A correspondent at Exeter informs us, that this disease has been very prevalent in that city, and that it has proved particularly fatal to those children that had been vaccinated, while in those that had received the small pox, it was generally mild. "An anonymous writer in the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal states, that he has observed "that infants under the age of six months, never receive the infection of *true* measles." Because the eruption was not accompanied with the catarrhal symptoms, he supposes that the disease was not *true* measles. We have repeatedly observed the eruption of infants without any affection of the eyes, the membrane lining the nostrils, or of the lungs, which we attributed to their being kept warm, or rather to their not being exposed to the open atmosphere. The anonymous writer *thinks* that he has lately met with one case, where the patient was at the age of twenty-one weeks, whose only symptom was an eruption.

PALSY.—Mr. Shewring, of Boswell Court, informs us, that he has lately been effectually cured of a bad paralytic affection of the extremities, by the aromatic fumigating bath, under the direction of Dr. Theodore Hart, of Red Lion Square, a member of the Medical School of Paris. He had been under the care of Dr. Ager, from whose prescriptions he derived no benefit. The effects of aromatic fumigation, in rousing the action of the debilitated nerves, he says, were evident after the first trial. Dr. Hart, we understand, has fitted up a variety of machines, at his house in Red Lion Square, for applying different vegetable and mineral vapours to the surface of the body, on the plan recommended by Dr. Galès, of Paris, which we have noticed in an early number.

SCROFULA, &c.—An institution, under the patronage of His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, and several noblemen, has lately been established in Aldersgate Street (No. 89) for the admission of patients afflicted with scrofula, and diseases of the joints and spine. Mr. Fayerman, who lately held the appointment of surgeon to the Royal Medical Institution of Norwich, having paid particular attention to the phenomena and treatment of those diseases, has been induced by urgent solicitation to undertake the medical and surgical superintendence of it.

SARSAPARILLA.—Notwithstanding the long experience which the Profession has had of the qualities of Sarsaparilla, medical judgment is still divided respecting its efficacy in the cure of disease. It will, therefore, probably be considered fortunate if the ground of this difference of opinion can be satisfactorily explained.

In surgical practice, indeed, the credit of Sarsaparilla has more uniformly been obtained, perhaps because surgeons are more fre-

quently called upon to seek the means which increase the restorative powers of the body, when reduced by the various accidents, and by the class of diseases on which they are more particularly consulted.

It is well known, however, that even the ablest surgeons, notwithstanding their uniform opinion as to the efficacy of this medicine, have yet doubted whether the ordinary mode of preparing it was best calculated to preserve its essential properties; hence some have been led to prescribe Sarsaparilla in the inconvenient and bulky form of powder, hoping, amongst the useless at least to retain the efficacious parts.

In the course of the attention Mr. Battley, a respectable pharmaceutical chemist of London, had paid to the preservation and preparation of medicines in their active forms, he has been induced to pay some attention to this root. From the result of direct experiments, he asserts that its medical properties reside, exclusively, in the bark of the root; and that such properties may effectually be disengaged by infusion in *cold* water. The root thus treated, becomes a tasteless and inert substance, and it follows, that when the bark has been materially injured, or when, in the preparation of the medicine, the ligneous part of the root has been chiefly regarded, the remedy so prepared must be, in a great measure, if not wholly, inefficacious. Various modes of improving on the simple infusion will readily suggest themselves to practitioners. Mr. Battley has found an elegant preparation to be produced by infusing the *perfect* root in cold lime-water; a menstruum particularly calculated to improve its medical properties, when administered to dyspeptic patients. The bark of the root we find to possess a slight acrid quality, similar to that of the mézerion. We are inclined to attribute the good effects the sarsaparilla has apparently produced in scrophula, and in promoting the effects of mercury on the constitution in a certain disease, to the mucilage it affords, and as a diluent; having witnessed the same effects from a decoction of the marshmallow root. Indeed, the latter we have found more generally beneficial than the former. Because the flavour of the bark is communicated to cold water on infusion, surely we are not justified in supposing that all its medicinal virtues are also imparted.

COLONEL RIDDLE'S FEBRIFUGE POWDERS.—Mr. Pole, a respectable surgeon of London, who has lately witnessed the salutary operation of this remedy in fever, expresses his surprise that it has not entirely superseded the fever powder of Dr. James. He states that he has satisfactorily ascertained that the Colonel's remedy more speedily subdues fever than any other medicine, and that too without reducing the powers of the system, so that on termination of the fever, the patient finds himself in possession of perfect health. It has also the important advantage of being *certain* in its effects on the constitution, which cannot be said of Dr. James's fever powders, or the antimonial powder of the College of Physicians: indeed, by some late experiments by Dr. Balfour, it appears that the latter is insoluble in the stomach, and as inefficacious in exciting perspiration as the prepared chalk. Our correspondent adds, if those medical gentlemen who are in the

habit of prescribing James's powders will do him the favour to give the Colonel's remedy a trial, he has no doubt they will be so highly pleased with the results, as will in future induce them to give it a decided preference.

The basis of Colonel Riddle's remedy is a saline preparation of antimony; but what the preparation is, we have not been able to ascertain with sufficient accuracy as to give it a *chemical* name, in consequence of its being combined with sugar. We understand the Colonel intends to communicate the mode of preparing his remedy to the College of Physicians, should it come into general use. Being a saline preparation, soluble in water, it is doubtless more certain in its operations than the antimonial powder or Dr. James's fever powder.

ERYSIPELATOUS INFLAMMATION.—Mr. Osborne, of Tunbridge, informs us, that he has succeeded in curing a case of extensive erysipelatous inflammation, of long standing, by sprinkling over the surface finely sifted oatmeal. He was induced to adopt this remedy in consequence of a variety of ointments and lotions having failed.—After the first application, the pain, inflammation, and discharge considerably abated, and in the course of ten days the disease entirely disappeared. In a case somewhat similar, which was aggravated by the most cooling ointments, we have lately found this mode of treatment to succeed. Mr. Osborne adds, that the instructions of Mr. Abernethy were followed, respecting internal medicine and diet, as detailed in our Fifth and Sixth Numbers.

PILES.—SIRS—The enumeration of different species of this disease, as the blind, external, mucous, &c. &c. by the most eminent medical authors, has no doubt led to a mal-treatment of diseases of the rectum, in consequence of leading practitioners and patients to refer all affections of this part to one or the other of the species. I have been led to make this observation by a very melancholy disease of the rectum that lately occurred in my practice, which in the first instance was termed *blind nervous piles*. The disease being evidently increased by the treatment of the apothecary, (consisting of stimulating medicines, generous diet, and exercise), I was requested to see him: On examining the seat of the malady, I found the internal surface extensively ulcerated, and the canal evidently contracted.

The patient's general health had suffered so considerably by the constant pain and copious discharge of bloody mucus, that he soon afterwards died. Now Sirs, I do not mean to insinuate that had the apothecary ascertained the nature of the disease when he was first consulted, that the distressing consequences might have been prevented; but I do say, that by the treatment that was adopted, the sufferings of the patient were greatly increased, and its fatal termination considerably accelerated. When the usual remedies for piles fail (of which many very valuable ones may be found in your publication), I would seriously advise the patient to have recourse to the advice of an experienced surgeon. In elderly subjects the piles are generally the effects of fulness of the venous system; and in those cases our object should be to moderate the

discharge of blood, and not entirely to check it (unless indeed his strength has been materially reduced by it) for by suddenly stopping the discharge, apoplexy has been frequently produced.—Whenever the cessation of the bleeding piles is followed by pain, a sense of bearing down, and a discharge of mucus, some disease of the substance of the intestine may be suspected to exist; and therefore when these symptoms occur, I would advise the patient to keep the bowels open by means of the Harrowgate salt (noticed in one of your Numbers) than which I do not know a better aperient; to take the Blue Pill as directed by Mr. Abernethy in your Fifth Number, and to apply to the part the following ointment every night and morning:—

Take of prepared calomel, one drachm; elder-flower ointment, six ditto — Mix well together.

If the pain should continue, extraction of blood by leeches will be proper. Attention should also be paid to the general health; and, in case the system be plethoric, extraction of blood from a vein will be necessary. I am, Sirs, Your constant Reader,

London, Feb. 6, 1819.

AN HOSPITAL SURGEON.

CHEESE.—A respectable farmer, residing near Eversham in Worcestershire, in a letter addressed to the Editors of the Farmer's Journal, intimates, that he has ascertained that the assertion made by us, that poisonous articles are employed to colour cheese, is not a fact, because a respectable maker of arnatto in London, had lately informed him, that no article of a pernicious nature enters the composition of arnatto. Now, on reference to our remarks on this subject, the gentleman will find we stated, that patent yellow or orpiment had been used as a cheap substitute for arnatto, by farmers unacquainted with the composition, and not, as he states, that arnatto is poisonous.—But why has his friend, the manufacturer of arnatto, withheld the composition of the article? Was he aware that it would not bear promulgation? It may not be injurious to animal life, it is true; but such is the composition of the article generally sold under this name, that was it universally known, no person would eat *artificially* coloured cheese. We shall be much obliged to the Worcestershire maker of cheese to inform us, either directly, or through the medium of the Farmer's Journal, why any colouring matter should be employed? Arnatto certainly neither imparts flavour nor richness to cheese. In Derbyshire many farmers never use it, and the pale cheese made in that county we have uniformly found the best.—Will the Worcestershire farmer deny this assertion, and give a reason for so doing? In Cheshire likewise it is falling into disuse.

FILTRATION OF WATER.—Mr. James, of Knightsbridge, (33) has invented a cheap machine for depriving water of its impurities and animalculæ by filtration, which we have found to succeed much better than those made of stone or bibulous paper. The advantages of pure water we have noticed under the head of distilled water in an early number; and the water filtered by Mr. James's machine is much more pleasant to the palate than distilled water, and

not less pure. The machine, for which Mr. James charges twelve shillings, will last a small family two years. The mode of using it (for which Mr. James gives with each explicit directions) is very simple.

We recommend this valuable discovery to our medical friends; for purifying the water they use in the compounding of prescriptions. For culinary purpose, it is of no less importance.

CHRONIC AFFECTION OF THE LIVER, &c. — SIXES —
Conceiving that it is the duty of every honest practitioner to second your praise-worthy efforts to diffuse useful knowledge among mankind, and to expose the most detestable practice that can possibly exist even among barbarians; viz. that of sporting with the life of a fellow-creature for the sake of gain; I send you a long correspondence between my patient (a gentleman of considerable fortune and respectability) and a Mr. Faithhorn, who has published a work under the taking title of "Facts and Observations on Liver Complaints, &c." I shall leave you to determine which of the laudable objects of your work the advice and opinions of Mr. Faithhorn are likely to promote. When the produce of the sale of an edition of a work falls short nearly seventy pounds of the expence of paper, printing and advertising, I think it is a fair conclusion that the author's object is to advertise himself. The letters of Mr. Faithhorn, and those of my patient, are in their own hand-writing. The superscription of the former letters will acquaint you with the name and residence of my patient. The letters you are at liberty to shew to any person that may apply to you for that purpose. I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant,

London, July 20, 1818.

CHIRO-MEDICUS.

A few days after we were favoured with this communication, we arranged the letters for publication in our following Number. Notwithstanding the respectability of our medical correspondent, we thought it right to apply to the patient, to know if the publication of the letters met with his consent. In his answer he observes, "I gave the papers to my present medical friend for the purpose of being published in your work." In a letter we afterwards received from Chiro-medicus, he observes, "If Mr. Faithhorn did not pretend to be better acquainted with the causes, treatment, &c. of diseases of the liver, &c. than practitioners in general, I should, with you, doubt the propriety of publishing a confidential correspondence. If Mr. F. really possesses a superior knowledge of this class of diseases, he will consider himself under an obligation to you and his late patient for the honour you have done him; and if not, still he will be obliged to you, inasmuch as you promote the object of his Treatise, by giving publicity to his name as a liver doctor. I sent the letters by the particular request of the patient, who has been a subscriber to your work from its commencement; and therefore, according to your prospectus, he has a right to demand an early insertion of them."

A perusal of Mr. Faithhorn's "Facts and Observations" removed all doubt from our minds as to the propriety of inserting the correspondence between him and his patient, being likely to prove at

least amusing to our readers who have suffered by a tropical climate. We have not presumed to take any liberty with the language and style of the learned author; and for the trouble we have taken to translate his prescriptions, he will discover sufficient reason to be thankful.

The patient, a gentleman of seventy years of age, who had resided many years in the East and West Indies, having read Mr. Faithhorn's "Facts and Observations relative to Bilious and Liver Complaints," applied, on the 1st of June, to the author for his opinion of his complaint, and his advice respecting its treatment by medicine, diet, &c. In this letter he states, that "he had been afflicted with a pain in his right side, beneath the false ribs, for upwards of twelve months, for which he had taken the mercurial pill for some time without effect. That latterly the pain had evidently increased, and was attended with slight fever and stupor, which were considerably diminished by a blister. The blue pill was again prescribed; but although he had taken one hundred, the pain in the side continued; they did not affect his mouth, but had evidently weakened his memory. Finding his strength to be considerably reduced, he abandoned the pills, and took to a more generous diet. Although he had been a great part of his life in tropical climates, he had never experienced the slightest symptom of any affection of the liver till he returned to England. At the time he first wrote to Mr. Faithhorn, he was affected with pains in his *left* elbow, the right shoulder, and muscles of the *left* leg. On rising every morning, which he generally did at six o'clock, he always had a sense of stupor and giddiness. His appetite was particularly good—he was free from fever. His nights were generally restless, seldom enjoying refreshing sleep. He had no affection of the chest—no enlargement or induration of the liver could be discovered on examination by a surgeon—the pain in the region of the liver was not fixed—the bowels were disposed to constipation."

To this letter the gentleman received the following reply:—

12, Berners Street, June 2, 1817.

Sir—In answer to your letter, I beg leave to inform you, that from the description you have given me of your complaint, I entertain a *well grounded* expectation of having it in my power to render you very essential benefit. Previous to prescribing, I make it an *invariable* rule with all my country correspondents, to acquaint them with my *general* terms, which are *two pounds* with the *first* letter of consultation, and one pound with every subsequent correspondence *exclusive of postage*: If consulted at home, *then* one guinea *every other* consultation.

I trust I shall be *enabled* to prescribe with success without your leaving home. Your obedient Servant,

To J. W. Esq.

JOHN FAITHHORN.

To this letter the gentleman returned the following answer:—

June 5, 1817.

Sir—Yesterday I was favoured with your letter of the 2d, and hope that my ignorance of your terms will be a sufficient apology for not having sent, in my preceding letter, the sum which you

mention, and which I now enclose in a Bank note for £.2, No. 23,434, dated 6th July, 1815. You have given me great consolation by the hopes you hold out to me, and shall anxiously expect your answer to this.

I am, SIR, Your obedient Servant,
J. W.

On the 9th of June J. W. received the following letter:—

Berners Street, June 7, 1817.

SIR—Two of the pills here prescribed, you will take at bed-time every night; of the mixture, a fourth part about ten or eleven every morning; yet if your bowels have exceeding three motions after the first three days, and you feel yourself sensibly debilitated from the effects—but not without, in that case, you will diminish the quantity; or, on the contrary, if they are torpid and do not act regularly twice in the twenty-four hours, under these circumstances, it may be taken twice in the day: one of the powders to be taken the second morning in a dose of the mixture, and repeated every fourth or fifth day; but should your bowels have been largely operated on previously, then I would only have you take half of one.

Dinner, Mutton or beef, (abstaining from all vegetables at present), not eating more at this meal of meat than the proportion of a good sized mutton chop, sparingly of bread, eating very leisurely, and being particularly attentive in well masticating *all* your food; drinking after this repast half a pint of toast water or spring water in a warm state, if it does not offend your stomach.

Nothing better for your supper, than a small cup of grit gruel flavoured with salt.

You may take the yolk of a fresh laid egg beat up in your first cup of tea at breakfast, if weak and languid.

You may continue taking two glasses of good wine after dinner, or taking three or four tea-spoonsful of brandy in a tumbler of warm water.

You will take all the walking exercise in your power without suffering fatigue. I should wish you to drink a pint of lemonade daily if it does not disagree with you. Eight or ten days after your commencement upon these remedies, I wish to hear from you.

Your obedient Servant,

To J. W. Esq.

JOHN FAITHORN.

N. B. Refrain from pastry, puddings, fish, smoaking, high seasoned dishes.

This letter contained a prescription, of which the following is a translation:—

Take of extract of dandelion, squill pill, of each half a drachm; mercurial pill, two scruples and a half; extract of spike aloes, eighteen grains; capsicum, powdered, two grains; mix and divide into twenty-four pills; two to be taken every night.

Take of compound infusion of orange peel, five ounces; Epsom salt, six drachms; tincture of senna, half an ounce; tincture of aloes, three drachms; carbonate of soda, gr. xij; white sugar, one drachm; distilled water, two ounces. Mix.

A fourth part to be taken every morning.

Take of rhubarb root powder, one drachm; carbonate of am-

monia, five grains; ditto of soda, eight grains; purified sugar, one drachm and a half; ginger powder, three grains. Mix and divide into three papers.—One to be taken every fourth morning in a dose of the mixture.

On the 19th of June, J. W. informed Mr. Faithhorn that he had strictly followed his advice. That the pains continued, but at times they were less violent. He was much troubled with flatulence, which he attributed to the adoption of water at dinner, having been affected with it when he used it, under the direction of a medical gentleman some months before. *He enclosed a pound note.*

On the 23d of June, J. W. received the following letter:—

12, Berners Street, June 21, 1817.

SIR—I have made some addition to the mixture, which, with the pills, you will go on with as before, continuing one of the powders in a dose of the mixture every fourth or fifth morning. You are now in my opinion *sensibly* better, and I have every justifiable reason to expect your recovery to health. I have no objection to your taking coffee. The general instructions and regimen laid down in my former, you had better adhere to strictly for the present. *A week after your receipt of this, let me again hear from you.*

Your obedient Servant,

To J. W. Esq.

JOHN FAITHHORN.

This letter contained a prescription, of which the following is a translation:

Add to the mixture, carbonate of soda, one scruple; white sugar, half a drachm.

On the 30th of June J. W. acquainted Mr. F. that he had followed his advice, and that on the 24th instant, he found himself so much better and in such high spirits, that he had been induced to take much exercise without experiencing any fatigue. When he awoke the next morning, he found the pain in his side more acute and considerably extended, and which continued so as to confine him to the house. His appetite was not so good as it had been. The bowels were open. *He enclosed a pound note.*

To this letter he received on the 5th of July, the following reply.

Berners Street, July 3, 1817.

SIR—You will take at bed-time every night, two of the present pills; a fourth part of the mixture about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, if there be a paucity of bile secreted, and your bowels be not operated on regularly twice in the twenty-four hours; in this case I would have you take it twice in the day. One of the powders previously prescribed, to be taken in the morning in a wine glass of water, once a week. You may now drink a pint and half of cream of tartar beverage instead of the lemonade, making that quantity with a quarter of an ounce of it, made palatable by adding a small quantity of honey. I should wish you to have *your* side and *body* rubbed with the hand or a piece of flannel for ten minutes, night and morning. *I request to hear from you AGAIN a week after your beginning on these remedies.*

Your obedient Servant,

To J. W. Esq.

JOHN FAITHHORN.

The following is a translation of the prescription which accompanied the preceding letter :—

Take of extract of senna, half a drachm; mercurial pill, one drachm; compound powder of cinnamon, five grains. Mix and divide into twenty-four pills, of which take two every night.

Take of compound infusion of senna, five ounces; syrup of ginger, three drachms; compound decoction of aloes, three ounces; tincture of the hop, two drachms; compound spirit of ammonia, forty-five drops. Mix.—One fourth part to be taken every day.

In a letter dated the 1st of August, J. W. states, that since he had followed his last advice, his bowels were more open. His tongue continued very foul, often covered with a dark mucus. The pains continued unabated, although his body had been well rubbed with flannel. He adds, "I have neglected to inform you, that I have been for some time subject to a pain in the left groin; and, "on coughing or sneezing, I feel a sense of protrusion there, which "makes me suspect that a rupture may take place, of which you say "in your Treatise, liver complaints are sometimes the cause; I "never had any symptom of the kind before, it may be the effect of "weakness." He proposes to take veal instead of mutton, and to adhere to his advice of taking no other liquid than the solution of cream of tartar. *He inclosed a one pound Bank note.*

To this letter Mr. F. made the following reply :—

Berners Street, August 1st, 1817.

SIR,—I should by all means wish you immediately to wear a truss, in order to prevent a rupture. I recommend your continuing the pills and mixture as before advised, taking likewise a table-spoonful of castor oil at bed-time twice a week, in a small quantity of warm weak brandy and water. *I wish to hear from you in seven days.*

Your obedient Servant,

To J. W. Esq.

JOHN FAITHHORN.

On the 10th, J. W. informed Mr. F. that he had taken the castor oil agreeably to his directions, and that it had operated copiously. The pains in the joints continued as acute as ever, and the tongue exhibited the same appearance. His appetite was good. He took no other beverage than the cream of tartar. As he had not been able to procure a truss, neither in Anglesea nor the adjoining county, he made use of a bandage (made of flannel) which he thought answered very well as there was no external appearance of rupture. He requests Mr. F. to inform him where he can obtain a truss of the best sort, and the price of it. Two (he observes) are advertised, one by Mr. Egg, and the other by Messrs. Salmon and Ody; and as both highly extol their inventions, he requests Mr. F. will candidly tell him which is the best. He expresses a wish to be informed if he may be allowed to take potatoes, in case he will not allow him to take cauliflowers, peas, or cabbage. He enclosed a Bank note of one pound.

On the 15th, J. W. received the following letter :—

Berners Street, August 13th, 1817.

SIR,—You will take a fourth part of the mixture here prescribed, every day at noon; yet if your bowels are excited more than twice

in the twenty-four hours, you will lessen the quantity ; or if they regularly do not accomplish this, repeat the dose.—I have no objection now to your partaking of vegetables. I consider that Salmon, Oddy, and Co.'s to be the preferable trusses ; the common kind is sold at 1*l.* 1*s.* ; the best with fine tempered steel, 2*l.* 7*s.* You may have one to fit you on taking the circumference of your body immediately above the hips, and sending up the *exact* number of inches—It is material to be accurate in your measurement : the better kind I should recommend, as it will sit most easy and comfortable ; if you wish it, I will forward one to you. *I beg to hear from you in a week.*

Your obedient Servant,

To. J. W. Esq.

JOHN FAITHHORN.

N. B. The Castor Oil I wish to be continued twice a week as previously advised.

The following is a translation of Mr. F.'s prescription inclosed in the foregoing letter.

Take of compound infusion of gentian, six ounces and a half ; Epsom salt, six drachms ; dilute sulphuric acid, forty drops ; purified sugar, one drachm and a half ; compound tincture of cardomon, six ditto. Mix.—One fourth to be taken every noon.

On the 22d of August, J. W. informed Mr. F. that the last medicine had not operated to the extent he expected, having only produced one alvine evacuation daily. The pains still continued in his side and joints, the tongue completely covered with a dark slime, and the debility of body had so much increased, that he was scarcely capable of walking. He thanked him for his civility in offering to procure a truss for him, and inclosed, agreeably to his direction, the proper measure of the parts of his body, and also 3*l.* 7*s.* for the truss and his advice.

To this letter J. W. received the following answer :—

Berners Street, August 26, 1817.

SIR,—One of the pills here prescribed, you will take at bed-time every night : of the mixture, a fourth every morning, or twice a day. I do not *now* wish your bowels to be acted on more than once in the twenty-four hours ; therefore, if they are excited more than this, you will diminish the quantity ; or should they be confined *two or three* days together, I would have you take one of the powders written for June 7th, in a dose of the mixture. I consider you may with advantage take an additional glass of wine after dinner. Your tongue being *somewhat* cleaner is a *material* proof of amendment. When I wrote you before with respect to Salmon and Oddy's trusses, I was informed theirs were preferable to Egg's. In consequence of your great distance from the metropolis, I was anxious to procure you one from a maker who could be well recommended from a Surgeon of the Rupture Society, whom I called on, and who stated to me that upon a fair trial of Salmon's trusses, he found them not to answer the purpose ; in consequence of this representation, I considered it right to get yours from the maker who is employed by the Rupture Society ; the charge of which is two pounds, the seven shilling piece is returned to you under the seal of this letter. A week after your commencement upon these medicines, I shall wish to hear from you.

You will place the loose cushion under the pad of the truss; the strap is to be brought under the thigh and fastened to the buckle in front. You had better put the truss on before you leave your bed in the morning, and take it off at night on going to rest.

Your obedient Servant,

To J. W. Esq.

JOHN FAITHHORN.

N. B. It is packed up in a brown paper parcel and sent to the coach office (directed for you) by the Union Holyhead Coach.

You had better now leave off the cream of tartar beverage.

In this letter was inclosed a prescription, of which the following is a copy.

Take of the compound pill of calomel, one drachm; divide into twelve pills, of which take one every night.

Take of infusion of Cascarella bark, five ounces: Rochelle salts, three drachms; best manna, three ditto; tincture of the hop, three ditto; tincture of senna, two and a half ditto; pimento water, two ounces. Mix.—One fourth to be taken twice a day.

In a letter of the 7th of September, J. W. thanks Mr. Faithhorn for the trouble he had taken in procuring a truss. He complains of the irritation and other inconvenience the under strap of it produced. He states that the truss invented by Salmon and Ody, on account of its not requiring an under strap to keep it in its proper place, having been recommended to him, he requests Mr. F. to have the goodness to give his opinion of it. From the last medicines Mr. F. prescribed, he received no benefit. The pains continued unabated, and the tongue more furred. He had substituted water for the solution of cream of tartar. *A bank note for a pound was enclosed.*

To this letter J. W. received the following answer on the 10th of September.

Berners Street, September 10th, 1817.

SIR—My engagements just now being so numerous, has prevented my calling at Salmon and Oddy's, but this I intend doing the earliest possible opportunity. I have seen the truss maker concerning the one you have; he wishes you to place a bolster of linen under that part of the strap which feels so uneasy, or if the truss retains its situation without the confinement of the strap, in that case to leave it off altogether. In the course of the morning I should wish you to drink a tumbler of *rennet whey*. The medicines as last prescribed, I should recommend your continuing a week longer, *when I beg to hear from you.*

Your obedient Servant,
JOHN FAITHHORN.

On the 19th of September, J. W. requests Mr. Faithhorn not to take any further trouble about a truss, as the one he had, he thought might *prevent a rupture.*

He had taken the rennet whey and the calomel pills, agreeably to his directions. His bowels were constipated, and in addition to his other sufferings, he was much annoyed by piles. The pain in his side, &c. continued severe, and, in his right side, was very acute—he solicits instructions as to beverage. *A bank note was inclosed.*

To this letter Mr. Faithhorn made the following reply on the 23d of September:—

Berners Street, September 23d, 1817.

SIR,—Two of the pills now written for, are to be taken every night; of the mixture, a fourth part twice a day; yet, if it causes more bile to flow into the bowels, it may in that case be too active, and if so, decrease the quantity. I have no objection to your now drinking half a pint of good beer with your dinner, and afterwards taking three or four glasses of wine.

Salmon and Oddy's trusses I have seen; they fasten from the spine of the back to the ruptured part, and do not pass more than half round the body; in my opinion they are very liable to shift their situation, which must be highly objectionable in a ruptured state of the bowel. You will write me again a week after your commencement upon these medicines.

Your obedient Servant,

To J. W. Esq.

JOHN FAITHHORN.

This letter contained the following prescription:—

Take of infusion of columbo, three ounces and a half; compound tincture of rhubarb, half an ounce; compound decoction of aloes, four ounces. Mix.—A fourth part to be taken twice a day.

Take of extract of the hop, ditto dandelion, of each half a drachm; mercurial pill, one drachm; mix, and divide into twenty-four pills: two to be taken every night.

On the 6th of October, J. W. informed him, that since he took the last medicine his bowels were more open, but the piles were much worse; the pains continued, and the tongue was very foul. The symptoms continuing, notwithstanding he had strictly followed his advice in every respect for four months, gave him much uneasiness. The confidence he had in his judgment, induced him to attribute the failure of his prescriptions to their being compounded with bad drugs. For his account of the truss invented by Salmon and Ody, he thanks him, and considers it fortunate that he did not procure one from them. *He inclosed a bank note as usual.*

On the 11th of October, J. W. received the following letter:—

Berners Street, Oct. 9th, 1817.

SIR,—I cannot forbear expressing some disappointment at the unusual degree of obstinacy which your case has shewn, and the inadequate effect of the medicines prescribed to what I certainly expected. It is well known that all drugs and medicines of almost every description are materially injured by long keeping, which is oftentimes the case where the distance is so far from the metropolis: indeed if your complaint continues much longer unsubdued, I will, if you wish it, forward a box of medicines from my own house, which I have often done with those patients whose disorders have been for a length of time particularly stubborn. You will continue the pills as before prescribed, and the same mixture with the addition here directed. An electuary is now written for, the quantity of a nutmeg, more or less, you will have recourse to occasionally if the bile continues to be so tardily secreted, or your bowels remain so incapacitated from performing their required and propulsatory function. As the discharges from your bowels bear a compressed appearance, it is

probable that some spasmodic contraction of the sphincter muscle of the rectum takes place, or that there is some disposition to stricture *at this part* of the canal. Are you obliged to make use of much straining in your evacuations, and are they generally small or of the usual diameter?—*I wish to hear from you again in a week.*

Your obedient Servant,

To J. W. Esq.

JOHN FAITHHORN.

This letter contained the following prescription :—

Add to the mixture prescribed on the 23d of September, sulphate of potass, one drachm.

Take of Æthiop's mineral, two drachms and a half; lenitive electuary, two ounces; confection of scammony, one drachm and a half; powder of jalap, two drachms and a half; cream of tartar, half an ounce; tincture of aloes, sufficient to form an electuary.—The size of a nutmeg to be taken occasionally.

On the 18th of October, J. W. informed Mr. Faithhorn that his bowels continued very irregular; the pains had evidently increased; the intimation, that a contraction of the sphincter muscle of the intestine existed had impressed on his mind, that he had some disease of the kind. The pains in the shoulders, &c. he observed, had greatly increased since he had taken mercury. He had continued the friction with flannel; he was free from fever; on getting up in the morning was very giddy. A bank note was inclosed as usual.

To this letter J. W. received the following answer :—

Berners Street, Oct. 21st, 1817.

SIR,—I have prescribed for you a box of pills, two of which are to be taken at bed-time every night; but should they stimulate the intestines to more than two evacuations throughout the twenty-four hours, under such circumstances you will proceed with one; or, if the peristaltic action of them is defective as not to occasion one tolerably copious discharge in thirty-five hours, have recourse to a dose of the electuary as directed in my last, and repeat it in fourteen hours, if the first proves insufficient. I should wish you to take the following beverage;—half an ounce of cream of tartar, the juice of a lemon, one drachm of powder of borax; these to be mixed in a quart of water, to which as much honey is to be added as to make it palatable. A week after your receipt of this, *I shall wish to hear from you.*

Your obedient Servant,

To J. W. Esq.

JOHN FAITHHORN.

In this letter the following prescription was inclosed :—

Take of compound colocynth pills, two scruples; emetic tartar, one grain; resin of jalap, 15 grains; oil of carraway seeds, five drops; mercurial pill, forty-five grains.—Mix, and divide into twenty-four pills: two to be taken every night.

On the 31st of October, J. W. informed Mr. Faithhorn, that the pills had operated briskly. The pain in his side had somewhat abated, but his health continued much the same. He adds, "I am afraid I shall not have a tooth left by the time I am cured—I have lost four within these few days, and two more are so loose that they will shortly follow them, and those that remain are so sore that I

can scarcely masticate my food. Inclosed you will receive a bank note for one pound."

To this letter J. W. received the following reply, and the adjoining prescription :

Berners Street, Nov. 4th, 1817.

SIR,—I have here directed some change to be made in the pills, and which you will proceed with as before, adhering to those instructions given in my last : a gargle is likewise prescribed, a table spoon of which you will wash your mouth and gums with two or three times a day, retaining it in the mouth for a couple of minutes. I should recommend you also to suck a small piece of alum once or twice a day.—*You will write me again in a week.*

Your obedient Servant,

To J. W. Esq.

JOHN FAITHHORN.

To the pills prescribed on the 21st of October, add extract of camomile, one drachm, in place of the mercurial pill.

Take of borax powder, half an ounce ; best honey, ten drachms ; syrup of red poppies, two drachms ; decoction of oak bark, six ounces.—This gargle to be used three times a day.

On the 14th of November, J. W. acquainted Mr. F. that the pills seemed to agree with him, producing two evacuations daily. The pains in the sides and the gums had abated, but the tongue continued foul. He adds, "I have often thought that mercury carried long is more injurious to me than otherwise. I shall continue the present pills for a fortnight, when I shall be able to say whether my conjectures are correct.—I have inclosed a bank note for one pound."

On the 18th of November, Mr. Faithhorn made the following reply :—

Berners Street, Nov. 18th, 1817.

SIR,—Your case *imperiously* required the very small quantity of mercury which I combined with the other medicines, in order to counteract the diseased action then going on in the *hepatic* organs, and which could not be effected without its aid. I have here written for another gargle, which you will use three or four times a day, mixed with half its quantity of port wine ; if you find it too sharp, a small portion of water may be added. You will proceed with those pills as last directed.

Your obedient Servant,

To J. W. Esq.

JOHN FAITHHORN.

The Gargle.—Take of decoction of bark, seven ounces and a half ; conserve of hips, five drachms. After rubbing them well together, strain off the liquor, and add to it tincture of myrrh, two drachms : dilute sulphuric acid, three drachms.

On the 28th of November, J. W. informed Mr. F. that he had persisted in the use of the pills. His health continued to decline. The pain in the right side was more extensive, although the friction was continued. The tongue was much furred, and his appearance was much darker. Having been under his care six months, he expresses a doubt of ever being restored to health. If he thinks he can cure him by sending him medicines, he begs he will do it. An

excoriation and an enlargement of the thumb, attended with great pain, had lately appeared. He inclosed a bank note for one pound:

On the 4th of December, J. W. received the following letter and prescription:—

Berners Street, Dec. 2d, 1817.

SIR,—I prefer sending you a prescription rather than medicines at present, in consequence of the excoriation, which I should hope will speedily be removed. Of the mixture here ordered, you will take a sixth part three times a day; the lotion to be applied to the parts several times a day by keeping linen cloths wet with it. You will now discontinue rubbing your body. If your bowels are without a motion for thirty-five hours, you will have recourse to a tablespoonful of castor oil. I recommend your living particularly for a week or so on sops and light puddings—such as sago, tapioca, rice gruel, and the like, abstaining altogether from animal food, drinking lemonade, and taking three or four glasses of wine.—A week after your receipt of this I request to hear from you.

Your obedient Servant,

To J. W. Esq.

JOHN FAITHHORN.

Take of infusion of roses, seven ounces; epsom salt, four drachms and a half; compound tincture of bark, half a drachm; syrup of senna, three drachms.—Mix. A sixth part to be taken *in a wine glass of water.*

Take of white vitriol, fifteen grains; sugar of lead, five grains; distilled vinegar and rectified spirit, of each one drachm; distilled water, eight ounces.—Mix. This lotion to be applied frequently.

On the 12th of December, J. W. informed Mr. Faithhorn, that the mixture had greatly exceeded its intended operation on the bowels, although he had taken it only twice a day. The pain in the side and knees had abated, but the tongue continued furred. He complains of Mr. F.'s having omitted to give his advice respecting the enlargement of the thumb, which was then very painful. He inclosed a bank note value one pound.

To this letter Mr. F. returned the following answer:—

Berners Street, Dec. 16th, 1817.

SIR,—You have acted perfectly correct as to the mixture; I did not expect it to induce a coative state of the bowel, and my observation as to the castor oil was in case the liver should become extremely sluggish in its function, which I am happy to find has not been its condition; therefore you will proceed with it twice a day.

I would have you take a small quantity of meat twice or thrice in the week, and on the other days to live as last enjoined.—I have prescribed a lotion for your thumb; some folded linen cloths you will apply wet with it several times a day, and if highly inflamed, you should keep it in a sling.—I shall feel desirous of hearing from you in a week.

Your obedient Servant,

To J. W. Esq.

JOHN FAITHHORN.

For the Thumb:

Take of Mendercrus's spirit, one ounce and a half; rectified spirit half an ounce; camphorated mixture, four ounces.—Mix.

On the 17th of December, J. W. experienced a very violent attack of the liver, which continued till the 26th, when he again wrote to Mr. Faithborn. In this letter he observes, that the recurrence of the attack of the liver (being more violent than any he had ever experienced) had greatly diminished his confidence in medicine, and therefore he entreated him candidly to acquaint him with his real opinion of his case. The lotion he recommended for the thumb had abated the pain, but the enlargement continued. The application he prescribed for the excoriation having failed to afford any relief, he suggests the propriety of applying an healing ointment to it.—He inclosed the usual fee.

To this letter J. W. received the following reply:

Berners Street, Dec. 30th, 1817.

SIR,—From your long residence in warm climates, in conjunction with your former free mode of living, and the extreme stubbornness of your complaint, leads me to suspect that the liver has undergone some alteration in structure; if so, however slight might be its nature, is quite cause sufficient to account for the diseased action maintaining its morbid influence so long, and so aggravating on the system at large. You really must not allow impatience or irritability to overcome you, as this will only tend to augment the cause of your distress.

I have ordered a box of cerate for the excoriation, which you will apply night and morning; previous to its application wash the parts with the former lotion. Two of the pills are to be taken every night; a fourth part of this mixture once or twice a day.

Your obedient Servant,

To J. W. Esq.

JOHN FAITHHORN.

Take of benzoic acid, ten grains; compound squill pill, extract of dandelion, of each two scruples; ipecacuan powder, five grains; Peruvian balsam, sufficient to form a mass, to be divided into twenty-two pills, two to be taken every night.

Take of carbonate of soda, rhubarb powder, of each two scruples; purified sugar, two drachms; compound powder of cinnamon, twelve grains; compound tincture of benzoin (commonly called Fryar's balsam) two and a-half drachms; gum arabic powder, one drachm; infusion of columbo, four ounces; camphorated mixture, two and a half ditto. Mix. A fourth part to be taken once or twice a day.

Having given these medicines a trial for ten days, J. W. informed Mr. Faithborn that "the pains had continued to increase, and were then very acute, particularly in the region of the liver; in the elbow joint and legs. With regard to Mr. F.'s suspicion of an alteration in the structure of the liver, he observes, "I cannot perceive any," as the pain had been the same ever since he had been under his care. The excoriation was somewhat better for the ointment, but the enlargement of the thumb continued. The tongue exhibited the same appearance as noticed in his former letter. He concludes, "For the last seven months I have given you a statement of my symptoms, which have scarcely varied: therefore you cannot be surprised that I should express an anxiety to know whether there

be any chance of my being cured." He inclosed the required fee. On the 19th of January, J. W. received the following letter and prescription :

Berners Street, Jan. 17th, 1818.

SIR,—I recommend your continuing the pills and mixture as last prescribed. I have here ordered a lotion, which you will apply to the excoriation three times a day, and if you find it too frequent for the part, dilute it with a small quantity of water. I should wish you to apply to your thumb, soap plaister spread on black silk, and which you may let remain on as long as it adheres.

Although I consider the organization of your liver to be affected, yet from the small morbid change which has taken place, justifies me in expecting that I shall be able to bring it to perform its functions more correctly, which, by being maintained a sufficient length of time, will *reinstale the organ itself*, or place its general faculties in such an unfettered condition, so as to preclude the risk of any fresh accumulation of disease. I hope you *regularly take all the exercise in your power*.

I request to hear from you again in a week.

Your obedient Servant,

To J. W. Esq.

JOHN FAITHHORN.

The Lotion.—Take of lime water, eight ounces; calomel, 2 scruples.

On the 27th of January, J. W. informed Mr. Faithhorn, that finding the pains, &c. to increase during the use of the mixture and pills, he had that day determined to give the mixture he prescribed on the 2d of December a further trial. The excoriation on leaving off the ointment and lotion rapidly healed. He laments that the weather will not admit of his taking all the exercise of which he found himself capable. The tongue continued very much furred. He inclosed the required fee.

On the 1st of February, J. W. received the following letter and prescription :

Berners Street, January 30th, 1818.

SIR—It gives me much satisfaction to learn that the excoriation is cured; this is not only exceedingly troublesome in some constitutions to remove, but oftentimes assumes a character seriously important; the lotion I last ordered, was intended to excite a new action in the parts *without*, which the vessels most probably had not the capacity of healing. You will take a fourth part of the mixture herein written for once or twice a day. When the weather will not allow of your taking exercise in the open air, you should walk about your room, so that the body and limbs be duly and regularly exercised, without which, it is utterly impossible for some of the interior glands to perform their allotted functions as required.

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN FAITHHORN.

To J. W. Esq.

The Mixture.—Take of the compound infusion of orange peel, four ounces; conserve of roses, five drachms; when cold strain off the liquor, and add Epsom salts, six drachms; dilute sulphuric acid, thirty-five minims; tincture of hops, three drachms; ditto of senna, two ditto; distilled water, two and a half ounces.

On the 14th of February, J. W. acquainted Mr. Faithhorn that the medicine taken twice a day had kept his bowels in a proper state. The complaint however continued unabated, and the pain of the right side had extended to the kidneys. The excoriation had returned in a slight degree, which had enabled him to discover the cause; viz. the use of a saline impregnation, which he was in the habit of employing as a common wash. To the usual postscript of an inclosure of a one-pound bank note, he adds, "I request you will let me know if I am to continue the *pudding* diet, as I am not partial to it, and I do not find that I have derived any benefit from it; and likewise that you will particularise the articles of which I may partake, both as to eating and drinking."

To this letter J. W. received the following reply on the 19th of February, 1818.

Berners Street, Feb. 17, 1818.

SIR—Of the mixture herewith prescribed, *four table spoons* to be taken once a day, and one or two of the pills an hour before dinner daily; but should your bowels become excited more than once in the 24 hours, under *these* circumstances, the dose of the former ought to be reduced. You will have recourse to the same remedies for the excoriations which succeeded before: when healed I recommend your washing the parts with the lotion directed Dec. 2d; twice or thrice a week, and which I trust will so strengthen the glands here situated as to preclude a recurrence. A renewal of excoriations in the part, is by no means an unusual occurrence, as they more especially will be susceptible to irritable action, while the general condition of the glands of the system continue so morbidly disposed, as to yield their several secretions of an unnatural and acrimonious quality.

You may now quit the pudding diet, and take moderately of animal food, generally giving the preference to mutton: mustard might be taken with your meat with advantage. I have no objection to four or five glasses of *good wine daily*; nor to a tumbler of sound old beer, if after the trial of a week you find it agrees with you.

Your obedient Servant,

To J. W. Esq.

JOHN FAITHHORN.

The Mixture.—Take of Epsom salt, six drachms; calcined magnesia, one ditto; best manna, half an ounce; compound tincture of rhubarb, tincture of senna, of each half an ounce; dill water, three ounces; distilled ditto, three ditto. Mix.

The Pills.—Take of compound rhubarb pill of the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia, one drachm and a half. To be divided into eighteen pills.

On the 6th of March, 1818, J. W. acquainted Mr. Faithhorn that he had continued to take the medicine he last prescribed till that day; but although it succeeded to keep his bowels in a laxative state, the pains had increased to an alarming degree; his tongue was also very much furred. He therefore earnestly entreats him to let him know by *return* of post, if he can send him something that will abate the pains. He had adopted the diet he recommended except the strong beer, which he was afraid to take. The pains were now so severe during the night time, as to prevent sleep.

To this letter he added the usual Postscript, "Inclosed is a one pound Bank note."

On the 12th of March, J. W. received the following answer and prescription:

Berners Street, March 10th, 1818.

SIR—The pressure of my engagements yesterday, would not allow of my answering you before the present post. I apprehend that you have taken cold, which has given rise to some febrile action, and thereby occasioned an increase of the distressing pains you complain of: indeed, at this season of the year, in these deep seated affections of the liver, and where the obstructions of the organ have existed such a length of time as your own, the disordered effects are more sensibly experienced. While the tongue continues so coated, and the constitution generally so irritated, you had better take three table spoons of the mixture here prescribed every six hours; one of the pills night and morning, or, even thrice a day, should your feelings not be relieved; if they occasion any uncomfortable nausea of the stomach, in that case, only half of one is to be continued for the dose. If your bowels require assistance, you may have recourse to a table spoon and a half of castor oil, in a small quantity of brandy and water, or to one of those powders formerly directed in a dose of this mixture.

If the pains are not manifestly better in a day or two, you may take either vinegar, whey, or wine; whey for a couple of nights. The lemonade had better be continued; if any fever of an active kind prevails, you had better keep to slops, and take wine only in the form of negus. *I should much wish to know* the exact state of your pulse.

Your obedient servant,

To J. W. Esq.

JOHN FAITHHORN.

The Mixture.—Take of carbonate of potass, two and a half scruples; recent lemon juice, one ounce and a half; Hoffman's anodyne liquor, one drachm and a half; spirit of nutmeg, oxymel of squills, syrup of tolu, of each two drachms and a half; Epsom salt, two drachms: camphorated mixture, and distilled water, of each three drachms.

The Pills.—Take of true James's powder, 18 grains; powder of squills, ten ditto, ipecacuan powder, compound powder of cinnamon, of each twelve grains. Mix, and divide into 12 pills.

These medicines having failed to mitigate his sufferings, J. W. declined the honour of a further correspondence with Mr. Faithhorn. He had recourse to a prescription in the *Gazette of Health*, which rendered his tongue clean, and improved his general health. On this curious correspondence we shall make some observations in our next Number.

STRICTURE.—A gentleman of rank and fortune, of Ireland, informs us that he was induced by the advertisements of Mr. Lynch, to visit London on purpose to place himself under his care. On his first interview with Mr. L. he was a little astonished to find him a negro so ignorant as to be incapable of writing his own name. Supposing that he might by accident have discovered a remedy for stricture, (as he declares in his advertisement), he told him that money was not a consideration with

him, and that if he cured him he would cheerfully pay his charge, whatever that might be, and also present him with fifty pounds. Mr. L. assured him in positive terms, that his remedy would effectually cure him. The gentleman commenced the use of the medicine, and strictly adhered to his advice. With the five guinea packets of the remedy he was abundantly supplied: but finding after he had taken the medicine three months, that the disease had rather increased than abated, he ventured to express a suspicion that it was a loss of time. *Surgeon Lynch* accused him of impatience, and after assuring him that he had not given the medicine a fair trial, and that his constitution being then saturated with it, he might daily expect to experience considerable relief; for the disease not being constitutional, it would assuredly give way to the remedy when it had produced the necessary effect on his constitution!! The *Surgeon's* reasoning succeeded, and the patient continued to swallow the remedy regularly for three months longer; when finding the local complaint considerably worse, and his general health reduced, he summoned up resolution to take his leave of *Surgeon Lynch* and his remedy. With the amount of the sum he paid Mr. L. for his medicine and occasionally for his attendance, he states he is ashamed to acquaint us. We have been credibly informed that it exceeded two hundred guineas!! The Gentleman afterwards met with an old acquaintance from the West Indies, who informed him that the said *Surgeon Lynch* came to this country with him in the capacity of a menial servant, and that on leaving him he turned doctor. His good lady finding that he had embarked in this business, called upon him for the purpose of convincing him of the responsibility he was taking upon himself, and of the serious mischief he might do by tampering with the invalids who might be misled by his plausible advertisements and false promises. The surgeon thanked her politely for the honour she had done him, and begged she would not allow her mind to be uneasy on his account, as she might rest assured that his remedies were simple herbs, which, if they did no good, would do no harm. Now as this man is tampering with the most distressing cases that occur in the practice of surgery, we do conceive it to be the duty incumbent on the College of Surgeons, to adopt prompt proceedings to prevent his doing mischief, or, which is in fact tantamount, inducing by false promises the afflicted to trust to a remedy which is not even capable of arresting the progress of the disease, till it arrives to a state that endangers life, or renders the unfortunate patient miserable for the remainder of his days.

CRANIOLOGY.—Drs. Spurzheim and Gall have published a tract on the opposition their doctrines of the brain, and different formations of the skull met with in England, wherein they assert that it arose solely from the selfish principle of envy and the fear of personal observation, and make the shrewd observation that those persons who are most strenuous against it, are conscious of not having the most intellectual heads.

GOUT AND RHEUMATISM.—Messrs. Flood and Co. of Lambeth, have lately offered to the public a remedy for gout and

acute rheumatism, which *they* have found to be the most effectual and certain specific that has been discovered for those diseases. They preface their account of it with a quotation from the 38th chapter of Ecclesiastes, "Out of the ground hath the Lord caused medicines to grow, and *he that is wise* will not despise them, for with such doth he heal and take away their pains." They assert that "numbers of persons have been restored, from the most excruciating pains and agonies, to perfect health," the most indisputable proof of which they are enabled to produce: viz. "Oaths made before the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of London!!" The good effects of this "wonderful remedy," they attribute to, "its combining with the secreted matter (that *lay* out of the reach of *common* medicine), which causes those dreadful complaints, and carries it off *speedily* and *effectually* in a manner the most surprising!!"—"A tea-spoonful taken immediately on the approach of the *symptoms*, generally takes off the *fit*, *almost* instantaneously leaving the patient to doubt the reality of the attack!" Its operation, they say, "is sometimes emetic, diuretic, cathartic, or *perspiration*, according to the constitution and *seat* of the disease; and where the parts are weakened by a *long* continuance of the affliction, a *longer* time must be allowed to restore the *tone* and strength of the parts." The composition "will keep good in any climate for the *longest* time required, and therefore persons going to distant parts need not be afraid to take large quantities with them."

On examining this wonderful remedy, we find it to be the tincture of the root of the meadow saffron, coloured and flavoured with the compound tincture of cardamon,—the contents of a four shilling and sixpenny bottle of which cost the pious proprietors three-pence!!

The Eau Medicinale, introduced into this country by Dr. Jones, a licentiate of the London Royal College of Physicians, as an infallible remedy for gout and acute rheumatism, Mr. Want discovered to be a preparation of the root of the meadow saffron. This respectable surgeon, like a man of true science, communicated the results of his experiments, and the method of making a tincture of the root which he had found to produce the same effects as the Eau Medicinale, obtained from France. Since Mr. Want communicated his discovery, several "*infallible remedies* for gout and acute rheumatism," have been industriously advertised, the basis of which is the meadow saffron. The indiscriminate use of powerful remedies in gout, have been productive of the most serious mischief; in many cases, attended with general debility, having proved as suddenly fatal as a poisonous dose of arsenic. Of all the infallible remedies that are advertised, those for gout are the most dangerous; and such have been the injurious effects of many, that it is a matter of surprise to us that the proprietors have escaped prosecution.

IMPROVED BALSAM OF HONEY.—"A never-failing remedy for Coughs, Colds, Asthmas and Consumptions. Prepared by Henry Cundell, Chemist and Druggist, of the Minorities."—The learned proprietor asserts that this article contains, in a state of great concentration, *all* the balsamic virtues of honey; and as honey

is the essence of a great variety of plants, so it may be considered a concentrated essence of the vegetable kingdom.—“As proofs of its curative powers in asthma, consumption of the lungs, colds, &c. &c. may be adduced the affidavits of conscientious persons, and the testimonies of Right Honourable characters of the British Empire. It gives such powers to the lungs of gentlemen, that to the orator, whether in the senate, pulpit, or at the bar, it is a most invaluable discovery, imparting even vigour to the brain itself; while in females it checks a disposition to loquacity.”—On examining this happy discovery, we find it to be a solution of balsam of tolu in rectified spirit of wine!! In cases of recent catarrhal cough, and incipient consumption, by accelerating the circulation, and increasing the nervous excitement of the system, it cannot but prove very injurious. Slight catarrhal cough it will convert into pleurisy and incipient consumption, it will hasten the suppurative stage, and thereby destroy all hopes of recovery. No traffic has been productive of more serious consequences than that of selling potent compositions as preparations of herbs or articles which are not capable of doing mischief. Such are the nostrums that are sold under the names of Balsam of Horehound, Balsam of Lungwort, Balsam of Coltsfoot, &c.; in the composition of which, the articles whose names they bear do not even enter, nor do they possess the power of alleviating the diseases for the cure of which they are so extravagantly extolled by the proprietors.

ALBIN'S CHILBLAIN WASH.—This nostrum is made by Elias Taylor, *Chemist*, of Newport in the Isle of Wight. “That it is a certain cure for that disagreeable and troublesome complaint termed *Chilblains*, may be generally found by one application; but if ever so bad and broke, two or three times bathing the part with it will entirely *disperse* the tumours, though ever so swelled or enflamed.” The humane proprietor, who, like all others of this worthy class, has no other motive in advertising his invaluable article, than to benefit his fellow-creatures, gives the following directions for its use:—“Bathe the part affected with a feather, a piece of fine cloth, or YOUR FINGER, going to bed, and the first thing in the morning. If the tumour should be broken, take a tea-spoonful of the wash, and put it to a pint of soft water, with which wash it well, and then dress it with Turner's cerate or saturnine ointment.”

The composition of this “wonderfully healing lotion,” we find to be, Goulard's extract of lead, with a small proportion of opodeldoc. The contents of a thirteenpenny-halfpenny bottle of which cost the humane proprietor about a penny.

If the preparer of this article were, as he styles himself, a *chemist*, he would have known that the mixture is unchemical; the alkali of the soap, by uniting with the acetic acid, producing a precipitation of the lead. Goulard's extract of lead, with spirit of wine and water, is a common topical remedy for chilblain during its first stage; but when it has advanced to suppuration it is an improper application; and in some instances, attended with a languid circulation, it has produced mortification.

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[Vol. IV.]

The late SIR WALTER FARQUHAR, BART. M.D.

AND THE LATE

DR. WARREN.

A comparison has been often made between the late Sir Walter Farquhar and the late Dr. Warren; but on putting the professional merits of each fairly into competition, how greatly superior does the latter rise in the scale! In one point all must agree—that both reached in the course of their progress, the greatest extent of practice; in every other particular they differ. This practice was acquired by Dr. Warren, through policy and intrigue—with Sir W. Farquhar it was the effect of an acute mind and an intuitive knowledge of mankind. The one impressed the patient by apparent parade and bustle, to mark the extent of business pressing upon him;—the other won the confidence of the patient by the strong interest seemingly taken in his feelings. Dr. Warren approached the bed-side with self-sufficiency and impatience—Sir Walter comes forward with the calm step of the philosopher to listen with sedateness to the detail of the sufferer.

But the prognosis is the true criterion that characterises the real physician; and the impatience of Dr. Warren made him often err in this respect, of which one remarkable instance may be mentioned, narrated to the writer by a surgeon of high talents and information. The patient had been some time ill, and at this period displayed strong marks of approaching dissolution, when the doctor entered the room, approached the bed-side in his usual hurried manner, and drew aside the curtains. "I see, Sir," says he, "you are better; you need not tell me so." The patient's face spoke a different language to the young surgeon. Two hours after brought the news of his death.—Such instances are not in circulation of Sir Walter Farquhar.

Dr. Warren's standing in the College was the grand engine on which his success depended. He was the means of instituting the licentiates in midwifery; and their interest in return elevated him in practice. Sir Walter's influence was of a higher cast; it claimed an intimate connexion with ministers and statesmen. Self-interest united Dr. Warren to his midwives,—merit only could secure to Sir Walter his sphere. Thus the influence of the latter was the *influence of mind*,—the influence of the former was literally, in the technical words of a distinguished Fellow of the College, *dish-clout influence*.

If in the same manner their dispositions are compared, the same superiority attaches to Sir Walter Farquhar. The liberal friend and patron of the younger part of the profession, to him how many have

owed their elevation in life! Dr. Warren, on the contrary, led by little enmities, shewed too often the vindictiveness of a little mind. Witness his antipathy to the late Dr. Rowley, whom he tried, by every manœuvre, to keep out of the College. Money was the idol of Dr. Warren, and to it delicacy was often sacrificed by him;—in the eyes of Sir Walter it was never but a secondary consideration.

INFLUENCE OF RELIGION ON THE INSANE.—Several governors of Bethlem Hospital being of opinion that religious consolation should be regularly administered to the patients capable of receiving it, a special court of the governors, held on the 17th of February last, requested Dr. Monro, the senior physician of the charity, to report to the adjourned meeting his sentiments of the probable effects regular religious instruction would produce, either in retarding or accelerating the recovery of curable patients, and increasing the comforts of any class of incurables. About two years previous to this meeting, Dr. Monro laid before a special committee of the Hospital, a report of the effects of religion on the patients who had attended divine service, in which he briefly considered this very important subject in two points of view; firstly, whether the efficacy of such instruction as auxiliary to the cure of *recent insanity* were not doubtful; and secondly, whether its more proper sphere were not to be sought in the consolation of the more settled and permanent cures. In this document the Doctor laments the many natural impediments that arise from the character and constitution of active and recent insanity, which prohibit the application of religious instruction and consolation during the influence of absolute disease, but he “hails with salutations of satisfaction the *general augmentation* of comfort and decorum among the older classes, where the more violent symptoms have already abated, and all asperity is removed.” He therefore expresses his approbation of the *frequent* exercise of religious instruction and consolation among the *incurable* patients, at the same time declaring that he does not anticipate any *great* or *permanent* good effects upon *recent* lunacy. To the aged and care-worn patients, he is of opinion, that religious devotion would afford great comfort, and pronounces the absence of such a provision a hardship. In the report lately circulated among the governors on this subject, the Doctor observes, that since he delivered his former opinion, he has considered deliberately, and with the greatest attention, *every circumstance* connected with this weighty subject, the result of which he unreservedly gives. He is decidedly of opinion, that it is amongst the incurables (which constitute more than one half of the patients) that the governors are chiefly to look for the objects of their solicitude, and for *fit* and *willing* receivers of religious comfort and instruction; and among the class of criminals, he had ascertained, that many were anxious, and even importunate, for admission to this source of support and consolation. Considering the *variety* of causes which have rendered confinement necessary, and bearing in mind that the majority at least of these sufferers would probably be detained during the residue of their lives, he enquires, Shall they not enjoy in *full abundance* this most invaluable privilege? Shall they not be encouraged and sup-

ported, and consoled under the weight of their overwhelming affliction by every effort of humanity? Shall they not reap all possible instruction from this grand source of unfading consolation?

"In these cases," the Doctor observes, "we have not to combat with *active* disease and the less pliable symptoms of recent insanity; we rather behold in them a class of offenders against their country and their God, whose reason indeed has been *partially*, and in some only *occasionally* impaired, and who still labour under a *modification* of insane symptoms; but the greater number have manifested tokens of repentance and amendment, and would easily be induced to seize every opportunity of religious communication.

"The class denominated *incurable* is also, in many respects, analogous to the criminals, so far as relates to the advanced period of their malady, its settled character, permanent confinement, and their only remaining source of solid comforts.

"Among these many might be selected as fit and willing objects of religious care, and others would in all probability be speedily tempted to lend an attentive ear; so that a spirit of decorum and good order, and, what is above all, a spirit of comfort and piety, might gradually, under the blessing of Providence, be promoted and established. The private communications of a sound and *judicious* chaplain (continues the Doctor), which might be held under certain regulations with many of the more aged patients, the settled inmates of the Hospital and the permanent objects of regard, would; I am *confident*, materially add to their little stock of present comfort, and afford them opportunities of reaping *everlasting* benefit. In my *deliberate* and *fixed* opinion, therefore, which I wish to express with all submission, it is incompatible with any species of justice or benevolence to withhold from them this inestimable blessing."

The Doctor rejoices that the opportunity has arrived for him to deliver a mature judgment on this important point; although in the estimation of some he has not adduced *very urgent* argument in favour of the subject in general, yet his attention, he asserts, "has been *studiously* directed to the mark;" and he holds the sentiments under certain modifications, which he has ever expressed—that a course of religious instruction and consolation, although nugatory, as he fears, during the *active* stages of insanity, must be to many of the more advanced stages a lasting and a solid advantage. He therefore recommends the governors to appoint a chaplain to read prayers and such portions of the Bible as may be thought most appropriate, with a *brief* judicious discourse thereon, at least three mornings in the week; who shall be able at the same time to dedicate, after each service, a certain portion of his time for the purpose of private communication, with such patients individually as shall be so disposed, or are likely to be benefited thereby, always under the discretion and selection of the physicians. The criminals, being necessarily confined apart, this service must of course be twofold. The Doctor offers a few remarks on the erroneous opinions held by some writers respecting the pliability of the mind in active stages of recent insanity.—"They appear," says he, "to imagine, that in the majority of cases at least, the mind is affected *independ-*

dently of the body, and that therefore there is no actual bar or hindrance to the reception of moral truth and rational communication; whereas, he fears, there is too much cause to apprehend, from examination of the brains of maniacs after death, that actual diseased structure is obvious in *all* to a greater or less extent. When the malady exists only in the bud, during its infant state indeed, consolatory and rational communications, united with the resources of medicine, may, by tranquillizing the agitated mind, so compose and steady the nervous system, as to prevent any organic or serious mischief;—but once, says he, suffer the flame to spread, the *whole* man becomes so alienated from his true nature—that finely spun and wonderful machinery, upon the healthy action of which his reason depends during this transitory life, becomes so affected, actually, bodily, constantly, and visibly by disease, that he, during the active pressure of such a malady, is no longer capable of a just perception of things. During this stage of insanity, time, medicine, regimen, various modes of discipline (always assuredly under the blessing and direction of Divine Providence), are our chief sources of reliance; and by these means many are restored daily to a state of sanity, and to the comforts of life and rational existence. Those who labour long under symptoms of alienation, frequently fall into a passive tranquil state, resuming, in some measure, their rational faculties, and retaining only a modification of the disease. These cases the Doctor recommends to religious care and support, because, in his opinion, they are the *only* class of maniacs that is fitted for the purpose; being free from the bodily infirmity so general in recent cases, and being also *permanent* inmates of the Hospital, they naturally look up to the governors for the supply of every comfort. Under this provision of religious services, and more especially of private communications, if any case, even among the curables slightly affected or particularly circumstanced, should occur, there would be many an opportunity of making judicious experiments, and exciting every possible endeavour for their advantage, under the discretion of the physicians."

At the conclusion of this report the Doctor expresses the deep interest he feels in this certainly very important discussion:—"I am," says he, "anxious that it should be arranged upon a sure and permanent footing." He conceives that no one can say what advantage, under the Divine blessing, may not arise from it; and if a few only be substantially benefited, the consideration is ample. At all events he considers the undertaking must necessarily promote good order and propriety of conduct, and a general disposition for religious feeling; and he anticipates such advantages as may (in conjunction with mild treatment and more general sources of occupation, and, if possible, the absence of all coercion whatsoever), shed a lustre upon all endeavours by largely augmenting the comforts, the rational enjoyments and best interests of the unfortunate patient, and promoting the general welfare of the establishment.

The Doctor's report (which gave great satisfaction to those governors who are members of the high church) was ordered to be recorded in their book of transactions; and the thanks of the

meeting were unanimously voted to him. Some governors, being still of opinion that religion was more likely to prove injurious than otherwise, or, at any rate, that it was a very nice point to determine, proposed to take the opinion of the *junior* physician on the subject; and all agreeing that it was a compliment due to Dr. Tuthill, a resolution was adopted to that effect. In the report Dr. Tuthill made on the 3d of December, 1816, he stated, that the only conclusion that could be *legitimately* drawn from the experiments that had been made at the Hospital, was, that attendance on divine worship is not a mode of promoting the real object of the charity, namely, the *cure* of insanity; and that it evidently tends rather to *retard* than to *promote* recovery.

In the new report which the governors have solicited from him, he therefore considers he has only to state, whether that conclusion has been confirmed or invalidated by subsequent experience and observation. Since April, 1817, three men and nine women of the class of incurables had been permitted to attend divine service. Dr. Tuthill gave permission for all patients of this department to attend who were not likely to disturb the congregation. Those who attended occasionally, expressed great satisfaction on being allowed to join in prayer, and to profit by the kind exhortations of the chaplain. With respect to the class of curables, the Doctor gave general directions that the *convalescent* patients be permitted to attend the Sunday service, together with such other patients as he should think proper to send from time to time, whilst their insanity continued. In conformity with these directions, 28 men and 36 women of the curable class that were under his care, attended divine service. Four-fifths were convalescent when they began; and as the Doctor's patients very rarely remain more than one month after their convalescence was already established, each of them on an average attended Sunday service thrice previous to their discharge. These patients, he states, also expressed great satisfaction on being allowed to join in prayer, and to profit by the exhortations of the chaplain. The remaining fifth part who attended divine worship had done so in their insane state; and the Doctor found that the attendance did not in the smallest degree tend to change their hallucinations, or to remove their disorder. Two had indeed been so excited as to render it necessary to prohibit their attendance. Some of these patients had been discharged uncured, and the rest continue insane in the hospital. These facts and observations seem to authorize the conclusion that the Sunday service, as at present performed, may be safely continued, and be suffered to form a *permanent* part of the establishment. The trials made on patients in their insane state, lead to the conclusion which the Doctor formerly expressed, namely, That attendance on divine worship is not a mode of curing insanity; but in stating this, the Doctor observes, "I do not mean to assert that more extended observation can never prove this conclusion to be false; and it would therefore be more accurate to state, that there is no method at present known to the profession, of applying religious instruction successfully in the cure of insanity. Experiments that might be calculated to ascertain the

existence of any such method, cannot be performed with the same freedom as experiments in natural philosophy, where the materials may without scruple be transmuted, the machinery destroyed, and the operations diversified and multiplied, *ad libitum*, with new subjects. Here the operation being on human subjects, we are not warranted in hastily trying experiments that may endanger the safety of those entrusted to our care. If, says the Doctor, "it be asked why none of the fifty-three patients who attended divine service in a convalescent state were permitted to attend in their insane state, I answer, that I conceive myself already possessed of means by which I could probably restore them, (an opinion justified by the event) and therefore I did not venture to subject them to what I suspected might prevent or retard their recovery."

Dr. Tuthill does not think himself justified in taking upon himself alone the responsibility attendant on further experiments; but if the governors of the charity should be desirous that further trials should be made with the patients that are supposed to be curable, whilst in an insane state, he expresses his willingness to multiply them, so as to arrive ultimately at truth. An attempt to apply the regulations of *private* lunatic establishments to the government of Bethlem Hospital, he considers absurd, the institutions being totally dissimilar in their nature; the patients being admitted into the hospital in the *early* stages of the disease, and retained in it only a *limited* time. The Doctor observes, "That if it should be true that religion or its forms can be applied *medicinally* to disorders of the mind, it may *not* follow that the most pure and rational forms are best suited to that purpose; for what is food to the *sane*, is not medicine to the *diseased*, but on the contrary, disorder must be commonly met by counter-disorder." "Hence," says he, "we need not be surprised if some of the *striking peculiarities* (to use a gentle term) of the Quaker meetings seem to have had more effect over the minds of lunatics than have ever been observed from the *rational* pious and *decent* observances of the Church of England." Whatever the decision of the special court of governors on this important subject may be, the doctor expresses a hope that they will never doubt the propriety of continuing to invest the physicians with the control they at present possess,—a control that might be dangerously exercised in other hands. The Director of a principal lunatic establishment (noticed by the select Committee) observes, "That the motive of the insane in desiring a private interview with a minister of religion, is in itself insane; and that religious melancholics experience an increase of disease, and a more confirmed delusion, by this special *spiritual* indulgence." If authorities were wanted in favour of those limitations at present observed in the attendance of the patients on Sunday-service at Bethlem Hospital, Dr. Tuthill observes, "I would willingly advert to the opinions implied and expressed of the virtuous and intelligent Howard. When the character of this truly great man is considered,—his deep sense of the general value and necessity of religious exercise, we cannot but feel assured that he would have been most eager to recommend the extension of those exercises even to the

insane, had he conceived it to be either proper or practicable; and when, in pleading for consecrating a room in every lunatic establishment to the purposes of religion, he expressly limits its use with the insane, to be for the *recovering* patients; and declares that he knows no way of beneficially extending it to those who are labouring under alienation of mind. This testimony is not to be treated slightly. His patience, sagacity, and deep attention to the subject, as well as his noble and sacred devotion to the alleviation of human misery, entitle him to quite another deference than that we owe to an ordinary observer."

An intelligent and an active governor of the Hospital, not being able to make up his mind, from the reports of the physicians, as to the propriety of introducing regular religious worship, requested a dignitary of the Church of England to peruse them with attention, and to favour him with his candid opinion of the subject. To this application the Reverend gentleman replied:—"I much fear, in any stage of insanity, the patients would be liable to misapply the instruction intended to be afforded them; and I agree with Dr. Tuthill, that the only chance of arriving at the truth is, by multiplying experiments; at the same time the cases would so differ from each other, that it would require a long, a very long time before any just and accurate conclusion could be formed, and I think with him, that the experiments should be made with the greatest caution. Of course I must differ from Dr. Monro, who wishes them to have service three times in a week. I have no doubt it has happened to you, as it has frequently to me, in the course of my pastoral labors, that persons have applied to themselves *personally*, what I have mentioned, and intended to be understood as *general* instruction, and have sometimes mistaken the sense I meant to convey. If then this happens, which it frequently does, to persons of sound mind and intellect, how much reason have we to fear, and how much more caution is necessary, when we are addressing those, whose rational faculties are impaired, and who are very likely to be influenced by strong and wrong impressions. The chaplain to such an institution will have a very arduous task, and certainly ought never to take upon himself to act, but under the directions of the physicians; and even then it will require greater judgment and caution than most men possess: to frame his discourse for such an audience, in my humble opinion, he should be full as intent in not doing harm, as in trying to do good. It appears that such an institution should have a chaplain, but at the same time great care should be observed in selecting a person for such important duties; and perhaps Dr. Tuthill is right, when he says, that what is at present performed may be safely persisted in, and that any new experiments should be cautiously made. The aberrations of mind, I have always understood, in persons so afflicted, are so frequent, that no dependence whatever can be placed upon them;—the same instruction which could afford them comfort to-day, if offered them to-morrow might produce a very different effect."

The view the learned physicians of the institution have taken of this very interesting subject, is more superficial, and their in-

ferences more puerile than we should have expected from the pen of the apothecary, or indeed the secretary himself, who is totally unacquainted with mental diseases. With respect to the *constitutional* treatment of insanity, the exciting causes of the malady may be of little consequence; but with respect to the *mental* treatment, much, very much must depend upon the cause which brought the disease into action. If the morbid excitement of the brain be produced by pecuniary embarrassment, failures in speculations, or persecutions, the pure doctrines of christianity, during lucid intervals or progress of convalescence, by cheering and strengthening the mind, must prove a most powerful auxiliary to medicine; for how completely do they render us superior to calamities, poverty, pain, disease, and even death itself! They smooth the rugged paths of life, and soften what is fierce, by promoting a humble submission to the decrees of heaven, and a cheerful contentment with our lot in this transitory existence. Christianity, more than any other religion, teaches us that life is a state of probation, and consequently that it must be chequered with good and evil in order to form a school of wisdom, in which virtue may be disciplined for the fruition of eternity, and that occurrences we may deem misfortunes, are intended for our benefit. When aberration of intellect is the consequence of the operation of any religious doctrines, or a want of confidence in the mercies of the Creator, the propriety of religious instruction during lucid intervals, or on the appearance of convalescence, is a very nice point to determine. If the malady was brought on by the wild doctrines of the sensible operations of grace and faith, as preached by some dissenting ministers, it seems reasonable to suppose that a *proper* explanation of the doctrines of the New Testament would powerfully tend to quiet the brain, and restore reason to her throne. This should be introduced as a *rational* exercise of the mind, in a manner so as not to excite irritation, or confuse the intellects. The discussion of subjects of doctrinal uncertainties should be avoided, and such discourses should be adopted as are calculated to inspire a rational and elevated piety, the principles of which consist in the love of God, and good-will towards mankind. When insanity is the consequence of close application of the mind to deep researches or intricate calculations, religion, by ennobling and cheering the mind, may also be serviceable, unless indeed the subject was metaphysics, in which the propriety of religious instruction is very questionable. The pure doctrines of christianity are so simple and so productive of comfort to a disturbed imagination, that we are inclined to believe that whatever the exciting cause of the disease may be, they may prove beneficial. The mind of curable maniacs is in general very ardent, and when advanced in convalescence, it is generally engaged on one subject. Instead therefore of occupying it with an object from which it cannot be easily diverted, we should amuse it with a variety, in order to counteract any disinclination to entering the society of rational people, which is absolutely necessary to render its recovery permanent.

The subscribers to Bethlem Hospital are composed of members of

the different religions, and the great evil would be that in case the committee were to agree on the propriety of appointing a regular chaplain to the institution, each sect would endeavour to bring in a clergyman of their own persuasion.—If the majority of votes should be in favour of one of the high church, or what is termed a ranting methodist, would not his doctrines of grace, faith, working of the Spirit, and eternal damnation, be productive of the most serious mischief? would they not indeed convert the curables into incurables, and the placid incurables into violent maniacs? Here, by seeking to avoid one rock, the governors would split on another. The bigotry, superstition, and enthusiasm of another sect would also be more likely to aggravate the disease, and render recovery doubtful, being in themselves if not partial insanity, certainly very nearly allied to it. The discourses on religion should be varied according to the state of convalescence, the exciting cause, and the dispositions and inclinations they betrayed during their insane periods; and, if the patients be of any other persuasion, it would be highly injudicious to touch on Christianity.

Dr. Tuthill's remark on the influence of certain peculiarities of a very worthy sect of Christians, is, in our opinion, very puerile.—If peculiarity or eccentricity amuse or quiet the mind of an insane subject, unless he be of the persuasion, what is the inference? If, at first, it should excite attention, is the continuance of it likely to render the patient rational? In the treatment of bodily complaints, we must attend to peculiarities; but the old maxim, "what is one man's food is another man's poison," does not apply to treatment of mental diseases, where the object is to counteract irrational action. His allusion to what he has been pleased *mildly* to term *striking* peculiarities of the Quakers, is very indecorous; and we are not a little surprised that the Committee should have allowed it to appear in their printed reports.—No sect of Christians evince in their deportment the influence of the religion of our Saviour in a higher degree than this respectable class of society.—These striking peculiarities at any rate do not disorder their intellects, for we believe they are less subject to insanity than any other sect; and, on trying occasions, their minds in general are cool and collected. In their general conduct, they are humble and correct; and their contributions to charities of *every* description, are in proportion to their means.—Surely then that religion should not be ridiculed as bad, which teaches man to be good.

To render religion beneficial or harmless to maniacs, it is necessary it should be varied according to the exciting cause of the malady, and the state of convalescence. No person can therefore be so competent to the important office of administering it, as the physicians themselves. Dr. Tuthill was originally educated for the Church; and Dr. Monro, in his Dissertation on Religion, has given sufficient evidence of his competency to administer religious instruction. The object of the institution is to strengthen the mind; and therefore, as Dr. Tuthill justly considers it, in a medicinal point of view. It is the physicians alone that can determine when the patient is in a proper state of mind to receive instruction, and from its effects

at the time to determine if it should be continued. The office, so far from derogating from their dignity as physicians and fellows of the Royal College, would raise them in the estimation of good or reflecting men. In cases of emergency, we have often exercised the office of a clergyman; and, in every instance, we derived as much consolation as the patients who were on the verge of eternity.

In order to demonstrate with precision the influence of the different religions on the mind, we would recommend the physicians, when they register the cases, to specify the sect to which the patient belongs. This will afford a proper basis for a more rational discussion of this highly important subject.

DROPSY of the HEAD.—Dr. Yeates, late of Bedford, a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, the Medical Societies of Edinburgh and Dublin, and the *Historical Society* of New York, late Physician to a Lunatic Asylum, and Ordinary Physician to His Grace the Duke of Bedford, has published, under the title of "An Appendix to a Pamphlet on the Early Symptoms of Water in the Brain," ten cases of affections of the head and stomach, which he thinks illustrate the doctrines he has broached in the said pamphlet of the cause of water in the brain. In his advertisement, the learned Doctor states, that "the favourable manner in which the profession received his first publication, and the appeals they have made to *their own* experience of its fatality, as confirming the doctrines he *wishes strongly* to impress upon the minds of those who have the management of young people, and the apparently trifling nature of the early symptoms, with their apparent want of connection with the ultimate stage of the disease which so frequently proves fatal, have induced him to publish an Appendix. He trusts that his *intelligent* readers will, from inductive reasoning, see that the probability is, that the cases which he has cured, would have terminated in *very serious* diseases, *connected with watery effusion in the brain*, had not such a treatment been adopted as tended to obviate the *morbid* impressions, which a neglected derangement in the *action* of the digestive organs will most commonly produce." In detailing the particulars of the cases, the Doctor professes to have "produced *facts* unsophisticated by *any* pre-conceived notions." But he has discovered, "that when the mind is actively engaged in *pursuits*, and is intent upon the objects of its professional enquiries, it is *impossible not to reason*, and in *reasoning not to theorise*!" After noticing the offices of the stomach and duodenum, and the "beautiful arch of the colon," and boldly asserting that the gall bladder is a reservoir for bile, the bladder for urine, and the colon for the *feces*; the learned Author observes, "There is another point of view too in which I consider the functions of the intestines, and in which *probably* there may be *some novelty*, but which appears to me to be established by *facts*. The *whole* tract of the intestines is a great secreting surface, not only for supplying mucus for bibrication to *facilitate* the transmission of their contents, but their exhalent vessels and glands discharge parts noxious or useless to the constitution, similar to the kidneys, skin, and lungs. It is very probable, however, considering the peculiar functions of the

duodenum, that the secretions from its glands, which are numerous in its upper part, are more immediately intended for the purposes of the digestive process, which is more complicated here than in the *first stomach!*" That the principal office of the colon is to separate from the blood the impurities conveyed to it by the absorbents in the general process of mutation, is an opinion that we gave in noticing the doctrines of Mr. Abernethy, about eighteen months since. If the learned Doctor supposes that the internal surface of the intestinal canal secretes a mucus to facilitate the transmission of its contents (rather for its protection) is a *new* idea, he will find, on referring to any apothecary, that it is as old as the Hippocratic system. Another fact which the Doctor considers a novelty, is a point which he thinks has not been attended to with sufficient consideration and enquiry, the constipated state, into which the intestines *relapse* after a purgative!!" He adds, that it will "accordingly be found that, in the cases he has detailed, almost all of them had taken *occasional* purgatives to remove the present uneasiness of constipation, yet nevertheless fell into that state of disease, requiring the aid of *powerful* medical treatment!" To His Grace the Duke of Bedford the lucubrations of his ordinary Physician must appear wonderfully great!

The following case (the first on the Author's list) we select on account of its affording stronger evidence in favour of his supposition than any of the rest.

"J. R., aged 22 years, on the Doctor's first visit, (July 26th, 1815) complained of almost constant head-ache; the pain situated at the back part of the head, sometimes attended with a throbbing sensation; she was feverish in the evenings when the head-ache became worse, with flushing in the face *at the time*.—The appetite was good, and she made no complaint of thirst—the tongue was white and clammy from an *unusual tenacity* of the spittle—the bowels were torpid, and the evacuations of a *very dark* colour;—but several weeks before a spontaneous diarrhoea came out, when the evacuations were observed to be *very white*. The pain of the head was increased by stooping, moving, or coughing; she had *frequently* a ringing in her ears; her feet were always *very cold*; the pulse seventy, feeble; the urine not *particularly* high coloured, but deposited a lateritious sediment.—She had been cupped in the back of the neck, and leeches had been applied to the temples; but she did not derive any benefit from them. Several weeks before, her head was shaved, and three blisters in succession were applied as each healed. The most relief had been obtained from these, but sometimes the head-ache has *spontaneously* remitted; and whenever this had been the case, she had observed the bowels to be more regular in their action. She had menses regularly, but always with pain; she had taken a variety of medicines. Mercurial ointment had been rubbed in for one month in the spring, when the mouth became sore, and was kept so for another month. At the time I first saw her, she had a seton in the neck, which was inserted in the preceding March; but no permanent benefit had been derived from any thing. The physician who had attended her,

gave it as his opinion, that it was a case of water *in* the brain; and he quitted her in consequence of its not yielding to the usual mode of treating the disease. I was sent *for* from London to see her, and went down to the county of Berks on the 25th of July, 1818, and found her in the situation above described. The complaints had commenced about one year and a-half ago, with pain in the right side under the ribs, which increased so much as to require cupping, leeches, and blisters. This pain was accompanied with uneasiness across the chest, difficulty of breathing, and severe cough. At that time the head first became pained, and has continued to be troublesome *ever since*—the bowels were also obstinately costive. This state continued with various degrees of intensity for six months; the side and epigastric region being very tender to the touch, she was so reduced as to be carried from the bed to the sofa. Immediately previous to this attack, *hard knots or tumors* appeared in different parts of the body, which at first discharged blood, but afterwards blood mixed with matter. The tumors had the appearance of a carbuncle; they healed *at* the conclusion of *this* attack, and have not appeared since. During this painful state, she was *occasionally* affected with a convulsive agitation of the right arm; since this time the bowels have been *always* costive, with occasional returns of pain in the right side. She had always been previously in good health, with *regular* bowels." The treatment the Doctor adopted in this case we shall also give in his own words, except the prescription, which we shall take the liberty to translate into plain English, for the instruction or amusement of our non-medical readers.

"Let the feet be bathed every night with *warm water, with some salt and mustard* in it. Regulate the diet both in quantity and quality—a small quantity only of animal food—little or no wine. The seton withdrawn."

"During menstruation, if attended with pain, she may take at bed-time the following pill.

"Pure opium powdered, one grain; antimonial powder, two grains. Mix.

"Two of the following pills to be taken every morning and noon: "Take of extract of hops, half a drachm; socotrine aloe, *two* grains; sulphate of potass (commonly termed Sal Polychrest) half a drachm. To be well rubbed together, and with simple syrup to be formed into a mass, and divided into twelve pills."

The learned Doctor adds an annotation—that the sal polychrest should be in fine powder!!

"A saline draught, with a scruple of sulphate of potass, was taken every night at bed-time, in a state of effervescence; and three grains of mercurial pill, and two of extract of hemlock, every other night; leeches to be applied when the head-ache is severe. I did not visit this patient a second time, but I corresponded with her professional attendant, Mr. Collison, surgeon and apothecary of Newport Pagnell, under whose immediate superintendence the principles of the above plan were steadily pursued. On the first of September I was informed that 'Miss J. R. had benefited by the

medical treatment, but that still her head is very much affected: she has discontinued her medicines about a week; she was yesterday obliged to have recourse to the leeches for the weight and pressure in the head; the appetite is good, and she is evidently gaining strength: but she is for a time better, and then becomes much worse. She wishes to know whether I wish her to continue on the same plan, or prescribe differently.'"—The following prescription was forwarded:

Take of distilled water, half an ounce; sulphate of potass, half a drachm; compound decoction of aloes, six fluid drachms. Mix, and to be taken every morning.

Take of prepared calomel and ipecacuana powder, of each a grain; extract of hops, three grains; powdered opium, half a grain.—Make one pill, to be taken every night.

"On the 12th of October following, I had the pleasure to receive a letter containing the following paragraph:—'I feel very happy in relating favourably of Miss J. R.; she has much longer intervals of health than she has had for these two years past: but still there are slight returns of the pain in the head. She has discontinued her medicines a fortnight, but with no unfavourable symptoms returning: it was by my advice she discontinued them, purposely to see if any relapse would take place, or rather to witness whether her present health depended upon the continuance of her medicines; and I am glad to say, that I consider it evidently arising from an improved state of the digestive organs.' I have been lately informed (December 1818) by the same gentleman, that she remained nearly in good health for some time, but that she has since had a relapse from a faulty action of the powers of digestion, and that the adoption of similar remedies proved favourable!!"

"The serious irritation which existed in the digestive organs, and in which the liver largely partook, had produced a very painful impression on the brain; and the irregular intestinal actions, with the vacillating morbid secretions, sometimes white and sometimes very dark, shared largely in the production of this alarming state. These irregular actions being frequently repeated, and the consequent irritation of the brain often recurring, had most probably caused a morbid vascularity, or a chronically inflamed state there; ultimately a thickening of the membranes of the brain, or an effusion of water into its ventricles, would have been the result; hence a fatal termination would have taken place, or great corporeal distress, with a degenerated state of the intellectual powers, would have supervened!!! The most powerful remedies had been used, salivation blisters, setons as evacuants to the head; but little benefit however was derived, until gradually alterative and exciting medicines were had recourse to, for soothing the irritation of the digestive organs, correcting the secretions, and giving a healthy excitement to the intestinal canal!!"

In this case we cannot discover one symptom of an effusion of water having taken place in the ventricles of the brain, or, as the author states, in the brain; or any symptom denoting a predisposition to the disease, or what may be termed promorbidity. The case was evidently morbid excitability of the brain and nervous

system, more from uterine than from hepatic irritation. There was inflammatory excitement of the membrane covering the liver and the pleura, common attendants on such affections; and if the Doctor had not had recourse to bleeding and blistering, it might have terminated in pulmonary consumption. The small tumors, which the learned Doctor scientifically terms "*hard knots*," were evidently boils. These were of a critical nature, and therefore suppuration should have been promoted. They were decidedly beneficial; and instead of stating they disappeared on the symptoms of water on the brain terminating, it would have been more correct to have observed, "that the excitement of the brain, liver, and lungs, terminated in the boils." Had it have been a case of water *in* the brain, or what is termed dropsy of the brain, either incipient or advanced, we think every medical man of experience and observation will agree with us in pronouncing the treatment that had been adopted by the physician who attended the patient before Dr. Yeates "*was sent for from London, and went to see in Bucks*," was more judicious than that which was adopted by Dr. Yeates; and had the case been water *in* the brain, the Doctor's remedies would have proved mere placebos; and if, under such mild treatment, a patient with the disease in question should recover, it would have been one of those cases which, as Mr. Abernethy observes, would terminate well at any rate.

When Dr. Yeates first gave his opinion that it was a case of water *in* the brain, we are surprised that Mr. Collison, who the Doctor says is an able surgeon, should not have set him right.—The case terminated favourably, and the learned Doctor had the credit of curing a disease which is generally considered incurable.

The Doctor, besides the honour of holding the appointment of ordinary physician to the Duke of Bedford, has had the honour of attending Her Serene Highness the Princess of Salms, whose case he pronounced to be water *in* the brain. In this case, a similar mode of treatment succeeded, and the doctor had the credit of draining royal brains of water. On this interesting case the Doctor observes, "*The varied morbid action, sympathizing in other parts with the irritated digestive organs, was beautifully exemplified in its vacillating from the lungs to the brain at different times. When the lungs sympathized with the irritated brain, a cough was very troublesome during the day and night, with a small pulse as quick as 124 in a minute; when the brain sympathized, the pulse was as low as 62, being reduced to one half the number exactly, full and intermitting!*" Thus it appears, in the learned Doctor's opinion, the lungs sympathized with the sympathetically affected brain, in which case the sympathetic affection of that organ decreased!! but when the sympathetic affection of the lungs subsided, the morbid irritability of the heart also subsided!! This is the reasoning of all theorists who make facts bend to their pre-conceived hypotheses.

In one case to which the Doctor "*was sent for from London and went to Tunbridge Wells to see*," he ordered, besides the usual aperient medicines, &c. ten drops of the following mixture to be taken twice a day.

Take of steel wine half an ounce; aromatic spirit of ammonia, vulgarly called sal volatile, two drachms. Mix.

A chemist would suppose that the *learned* doctor was not aware that the iron in the wine is held in solution by an acid; and, of course, that by the addition of the aromatic spirit of ammonia, it would be precipitated. But we must not suppose that a learned Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians can be ignorant of so important a branch of medicine as chemistry.—One of a corporate body too, who declares the Licentiates (Graduates of the Scotch Universities) to be only qualified to attend simple cases of disease, and who have agreed to discountenance the attendance of an apothecary at the bed-side of a patient, and to send prescriptions to the shops of druggists, in preference to apothecaries.—So far however we will dare to say, that the practice of Doctor Yeates, to which he declares many of his patients are indebted for their recovery, is as disproportionate to the disease for which he recommends it, as the most ignorant apothecary could suggest; and his work altogether as contemptible as any that has appeared on medicine from either an apothecary or surgeon within the last century.

For the "favourable manner in which the *profession* have received his first work," he refers his readers "to the Medical Repository for 1815, and the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal." Does the learned Doctor suppose that those works speak the sentiments of the profession at large? Favourable reviews of the most contemptible works have crept into them; but we may venture to say, as long as they are edited by the present conductors, no such impositions will be practised on their subscribers. But why has he thought proper not to refer his readers to another respectable review, the London Medical and Physical Journal? Such a reference would not have answered the Doctor's purpose!!

If the profession really wish to suppress quackery, the members should discard all unworthy practices, and exercise the art honestly, or at least as much for the corporeal benefit of their patients, as for their own pecuniary advantage. To magnify the danger of a malady, or to give it a formidable name, merely for the sake of leading the patient or his friends to suppose that a wonderful cure has been effected, is, of all empirical practices, the most despicable.

PRUSSIC ACID.—Dr. Granville, an *ordinary* physician to the Duke of Clarence, licensed by the college to practise in simple cases of disease, *physician*-accoucheur to the Westminster Dispensary, and who, to the imposing initials of M. D. can add those of F. R. S. F. L. S. and M. R. I., has lately published a work under the title of "*Further observations on the internal use of the Prussic acid (lately termed, by Gay Lussac, the hydro-cyanic acid) in pulmonary complaints, chronic catarrh, spasmodic cough, asthma, whooping cough, and some other diseases.*" In his advertisement, the Doctor claims the credit of having first excited the attention of the medical profession to this active remedy, and therefore he considers himself pledged to them for further information. Sanguine as his expectations were as to this remedy on his first noticing it, he declares, that *his* subse-

quent experience has surpassed them! The effects of the Prussic acid in allaying nervous excitement were noticed by us, and by the editors of other journals, before the Doctor's account of it appeared in this country; and we stand indebted to Dr. Magendie, of Paris, for our first knowledge of it. The name of Prussic acid was given to this article by the celebrated chemist, Guyton de Morveau. Scheele, a celebrated Swedish chemist, was the first who obtained the acid from Prussian blue in such purity as to enable him to examine its chemical properties. Gay Lussac obtained it in so concentrated a state, that the small quantity of one drop applied to the tongue, or even to the end of the nose, destroyed life instantaneously. The following method of preparing the acid by Vanquelin, is generally adopted by the French chemists, and is introduced into the new French Pharmacopœia:

"Into a solution of two ounces of prussiate of mercury, in sixteen ounces of water, pass as much sulphuretted hydrogen gas as will decompose the salt, leaving an excess of the gas; separate the sulphuret of mercury by filtration, and heat the filtered liquor with an excess of subcarbonate of lead; shake the bottle until the excess of sulphuretted hydrogen be absorbed, and filter the liquor for use." The produce is a *dilute* Prussic acid, which, in the hands of cautious practitioners, is a safe and no doubt in cases of inflammatory excitement of nerves, a valuable remedy. Parkes directs the Prussic acid to be made by separating it from Prussian blue, by means of the sulphuric acid; but the method we have found to be the most simple, and for medicinal purposes the best, because it is not only pure, but always of the same strength (which for an internal remedy of such potency are of the first importance) is, by decomposing the Prussiate of potass by sulphuric acid. Of three ounces of the dilute acid obtained from two ounces of the Prussiate of potass, from one to two drops may be administered two or three times a day. We have, in several of our back numbers, noticed the peculiar powers of this acid in lessening nervous excitement, and of course in diminishing the action of the heart, and reducing the temperature of the system; and it is to these effects that the benefit it produces in nervous and inflammatory affections of the lungs and other parts of the body, are to be attributed; and to those accounts, Dr. Granville has not been able to make any addition in his *further* observations; indeed, those of our readers who may think proper to refer to his work, will think with ourselves that the learned Doctor is more indebted to us for his *further* observations, particularly the diseases to the cure of which it is applicable, and the mode of administering it, than to his own experience.

In the nervous affections, for which we have recommended the acid, as the *tic dolozeux*, locked jaw, &c., the Doctor has the modesty to confess that he had had no opportunity of giving it a trial.

In prescribing the acid, the Doctor observes, "care should be taken not to associate it with substances which are known to decompose it, or which are decomposed by its action. In this respect the medicinal Prussic acid is not singular; for it is a

matter of the first importance never to lose sight of the chemical affinities of every medicine we prescribe. The Prussic acid is soluble in water, and is not decomposed by any of the vegetable substances. It may therefore be given in vegetable infusions, and syrups may be added if necessary. It decomposes most of the salts *usually* employed in medicine, particularly those of antimony and soda; and cannot therefore be used in combination with them either before or after its *injection* into the stomach."

"It should also be recollected, that at a high temperature the Prussic acid is decomposed; hence the simple combinations of this acid, and the various bases called Prussiates, cease to be such if they be dried at a high degree of heat, so as to deprive them of all the water present, without which the acid cannot exist."

"The Prussic acid combines with the alkalies and earths, but its affinity to them is inconsiderable; for as the acid is so liable to decomposition, the constitution of the triple compounds it forms is easily subverted."

"Magnesia is dissolved but in small quantities by the Prussic acid, and again soon precipitated. With ammonia it forms a *peculiar* salt, which might be used with advantage as a *medicine*. In cases where the Prussic acid *has been given* in too great a dose, the ammonia has been suggested as the best means of neutralizing it; but on this subject," observes the Doctor, "I have two observations to make. The first, that the acid is so rapidly absorbed when once taken, that little expectation can be formed of the ammonia finding it in the stomach; and the second, that when ammonia has been used *immediately* after taking the acid, in order to diminish its highly sedative power, the addition of the alkali did not seem to correct the effects of the former medicine."

"The Prussic acid," he thinks, "cannot be administered in combination with any of the sulphurets, which it has the property of decomposing. The affinity of the Prussic acid for the alkalies is so weak, that even carbonic acid displaces it from those combinations. Hence the Prussic acid may be given in conjunction with the carbonate of potass, forming one of the most successful modes of prescribing it in spasmodic and whooping coughs."

"With tonics," he states, "that it may be associated with real advantage. The watery and filtered infusion of bark, calumbo, cascarilla, and even sarsaparilla, quickened by a few drops of alcohol, will be found to answer best the intended purpose. In *incipient* pulmonary complaints, a *strong* decoction of the lichen islandicus will prove an useful addition to the acid."

The following are the formulæ under which the Doctor has prescribed it in the various complaints he has treated with the acid.

1. *In Incipient Consumption*.—Take of decoction of Iceland moss, eight ounces; Prussic acid, eight drops; syrup of roses, half an ounce. Mix. Half an ounce to be taken every second hour. Or, Take of almond emulsion, eight ounces; Prussic acid, ten drops; syrup of tolu, half an ounce. A table-spoonful to be taken every third hour.

2. *In Spasmodic Coughs, Hooping Cough, and Asthma.*—Take of sub-carbonate of potass, fifteen grains; cochineal, eight grains; Prussic acid, ten drops; distilled water, six ounces. Mix. To an infant give a tea-spoonful according to the urgency of the cough. But to adults a table-spoonful may be given three or four times a day. Or,
Take of infusion of orange peel, five ounces; Prussic acid, eight drops; syrup of wormwood, one drachm. Mix. To be taken as the one above.
3. *In Chronic Cough with Debility.*—Take of decoction of pale Peruvian bark, two ounces; Prussic acid, two drops; compound spirit of juniper, half a drachm. Mix. This quantity to be taken three times a day.

“It is indispensibly necessary to use no other than distilled water in all prescriptions having the Prussic acid as one of their ingredients; or decomposition of the salts contained in common water, and of the acid itself, will take place.”

To no science is the old adage of “a little learning is a dangerous thing” more applicable than to chemistry. In one place the learned Doctor asserts, that the Prussic acid decomposes *all the salts* usually employed in medicine, particularly those of antimony and soda, and in the following page he observes that its affinity for the alkalies is so weak, that it may be given with the carbonate of potass!! It will, in the Doctor’s opinion, decompose the sulphates or muriates of potass, but it will not the carbonates!! Admirable chemist! Chemical cautions from such a man must be valuable indeed. By the assertion that the Prussic acid is so rapidly absorbed after it enters the stomach, that “little expectation can be formed of ammonia finding it there,” it appears that he is as well acquainted with the *modus operandi* of a sedative as he is with the first lessons of chemistry! The learned gentleman seems to have become a convert to the opinions of that great philosopher, and scientific experimentalist, Sir Everard Home, who supposes that anodyne medicines are speedily conveyed to the circulation, and through it operates on the nervous system!! Reflecting practitioners suppose that this class of medicines operates on the nerves of the stomach; and that, by them, their peculiar effects are transmitted to the brain, and diffused over the nervous system; and if this idea be not correct, how are we to account for the sudden manner in which some poisons destroy life? A drop of the concentrated Prussic acid applied to the nose of a dog has instantaneously proved fatal, even without producing a convulsion. Are we to suppose that the acid in such a case was absorbed and conveyed to the brain by the blood? According to the learned Doctor’s theory, the Prussic acid *diminishes* the nervous excitement, and *increases* the action of the absorbents!! Admirable physiologist!!! This is indeed, as Dr. Yeates would say, something new.

The Doctor’s prescription for hooping cough is an old domestic receipt, with the addition of ten drops of the Prussic acid; in each dose of which, an adult will take about half a drop of the acid!!

and a child about an eighth of a drop!! This compound affords another proof of the Doctor's chemical knowledge. The Prussic acid, by uniting with the potass in excess, forms the Prussiate of potass, and is thereby rendered inert! Had he ordered the *carbonate* of potass instead of the *sub-carbonate*, the acid would not have been neutralized, the carbonic acid having a greater affinity to the alkali than the Prussic acid. Such chemical precision we should not perhaps expect from a *licentiate* of the College. The propriety of administering a strong decoction of the Iceland moss, even with so powerful a sedative, in the first stage of pulmonary consumption, is much to be doubted. We have always found this medicine to increase the feverish state of the system, and to aggravate cough during what the Doctor terms the incipient stage; and we think no man acquainted with the state of the lungs at this period, would have recourse to a *tonic* medicine. Almond emulsion we conceive to be a much better vehicle for its exhibition during the inflammatory or incipient stage.

In recommending a remedy, a few drops of which are capable of destroying life as instantaneously as lightning, surely some pathological remarks, by way of caution, were necessary; and, as a physician, it was incumbent on Dr. Granville to point out clearly, like a man of science, which a physician should be, the states of constitution, or under what circumstances it may be given with advantage, or otherwise. It is in cases of inflammatory excitement of nerves, or what we have termed *super-irritation*, that this acid has proved beneficial, and may be administered with impunity. In sub-irritative cases, where no inflammatory disposition exists, or where the vital powers are much reduced, the dose that would prove serviceable in a super-irritative disease, would absolutely destroy life in a few moments. In the last stages of asthma and consumption, the acid would, even in the smallest dose the Doctor recommends, soon terminate the sufferings of the patient. How many lives have been destroyed by the *eau medicinale*, in consequence of the cases of gout not having been properly pointed out to the cure of which it was applicable, namely, the *super-irritative*! In sub-irritative gout, or gout in a debilitated, or what Dr. Granville would term a *phlegmatic* habit, it has destroyed life in a few hours, and that too in the most distressing manner. So long as no principle is established, founded on a general knowledge of the animal economy, and a better acquaintance with the *modus operandi* of medicine, the practice of physicians will be little better than quackery,—the balance, as the late Sir Walter Farquhar very justly observed, being greatly against the public.

The work before us confirms the truth of a remark lately made by Mr. Abernethy, that physicians too frequently commence their career by *teaching* instead of *learning*.

Of the nineteen cases the doctor and his "*dear friend Thompson*" have been able to collect, to illustrate the beneficial effect of the Prussic acid, the following is the most worthy of notice:

"To a lady aged fifty, who had, for some weeks previous to my

seeing her, been gradually wasting with hectic fever, incessant cough, and occasional hæmoptysis, I gave the Prussic acid, beginning with eight drops, as the total quantity for twenty-four hours, and increasing the dose, usually at the rate of one drop per day, up to twenty-four drops. The following was the exact form of the mixture:

Take of Prussic acid, eight drops; almond mixture, 4 fluid ounces; decoction of yellow Peruvian bark, and spearmint water, of each two ounces; syrup of tolu, two drachms. Mix. A fourth part to be taken every sixth hour.

"At first the effects seemed very promising. There was a speedy and a general improvement. The appetite, which had been lost, returned; the cough subsided; there was some abatement of the expectoration, which was manifestly puriform: the hectic fever and attendant perspiration abated, the sleep improved, the spirits of the patient were elated, and she became sanguine in her hope of recovery. I did not, however, allow myself to indulge in such flattering feelings; there was too much evidence of advanced diseased organization of the lungs to warrant any expectation of cure; and this was proved by the fatal termination of this case in about two months. After a month the Prussic acid began to disagree; sometimes vomiting, at other times diarrhœa occurring; the former effect apparently produced by the medicine, and the latter evidently increased on the different occasions of renewing the acid."

It appears, by the composition the Doctor prescribed in this case, that he considers the Peruvian bark and spearmint water nearly as powerful a medicine as the Prussic acid. It is certainly the first time we have seen two ounces of spearmint water and of the decoction of bark prescribed in an eight-ounce mixture!! When a medical man extols a sedative medicine as a remedy for pulmonary consumption, the inference is that he is ignorant of the disease that exists in the substance of the lungs. By diminishing irritation we may lessen the sufferings of the patient, and induce him to fancy he is in a state of convalescence: but what real progress do we thereby make in removing the diseased structure, or in repairing the parts that have sustained injury? The physician acquainted with surgery will be aware that something more must be done to assist nature in effecting a mutation of the diseased portion of the lungs. On this subject we have already dilated in our third number. In order that the Prussic acid may have a fair trial in this country, we have carefully prepared a quantity of it for our professional subscribers, which may be obtained in vials containing from half to one ounce, at the Medical Hall, 171, Piccadilly. It is necessary to observe, that in consequence of its great volatility it should be kept in a cool situation; and as light has evidently an effect on it, the place should also be dark.

As Dr. Granville considered "himself pledged to the profession" to communicate his *further* observations on the medicinal virtues of the Prussic acid, in consequence of having published a brief account of Dr. Magendie's experiments with it, was it not equally incumbent on him to report his further observations on the Vomic Nut—the

effects of which he so highly extolled in paralytic affections, in his communications to the Medical Repository during his short residence in Paris? Having spoken in such high terms of the specific operation of that powerful poison in paralytic affections, and recommended it to be given to such a frightful extent, we certainly did expect to have met with some "*further observations*" on its medicinal properties; particularly as it has since been abandoned by the physicians who first gave it a trial. Those reports evince a sanguine mind as to the effects of remedies, and will induce those practitioners who are acquainted with them to disregard his future observations. Indeed, after it has been ascertained that the remedy, instead of proving beneficial, had been productive of serious mischief, he cannot expect that a considerate practitioner will place implicit confidence in what may in future come from his pen.

The Prussic acid we have been in the habit of prescribing was in so dilute a state, that fifteen drops were equal only to one drop of the medicinal Prussic acid obtained by decomposing the prussiate of potass, recommended to the attention of our medical readers in the preceding pages. *This preparation*, therefore, must not be given to the extent we have specified in the prescriptions for the *dilute* Prussic acid in our back numbers. We beg our non-medical readers to keep in recollection, that the article, in the quantity of a few drops, is capable of destroying life, and that its effects should be watched by a skilful practitioner.

DISEASES OF THE LIVER.—Dr. Mills of Dublin has lately communicated to the public, the result of his enquiries into the influence of diseases of the liver, on the brain, lungs, &c. The learned Doctor brings forward a variety of cases, which, in *his* opinion, prove—1stly, that the brain is affected by disordered actions *in* the liver; 2dly, that affections of the lungs originate *in* the liver; 3dly, that the heart is influenced by disease *in* the liver; 4thly, that the stomach is disordered by *obscure* marked disorders of the liver; 5thly, that dysenteric affections of the bowels are the effects of diseased action of the liver; 6thly, that gout often owes its origin to a morbid state of the liver; 7thly, that palsy originates in disease of the liver; 8thly, that boils and affections of the cutaneous vessels arise from a vitiated secretion of the liver; 9thly, that derangement of the nervous system is occasioned by a diseased state of the liver; and 10thly, that *several* organs may be at the same time affected through the medium of the liver!!—The Doctor is of opinion, that practitioners often fail in curing a disease in consequence of directing their remedies to the *secondary* instead of the *primary* affection. Experience has convinced him "that diseases of the liver possess a power of remaining *latent*, and, as if to mislead the physician, of *sounding* considerable alarm in other quarters!!" and, like an able general, by keeping up a regular attack on the strong hold of the enemy, he has paralysed his operations in other quarters. The liver is, in fact, the strong fortification of the enemy; and affections of other parts are merely false alarms. The following case will acquaint our readers with the Doctor's medical

tactics, and the mode of attack he has found most successful in defeating the *obscure* operations of the grim tyrant Death.

On the 2d of January, 1815, "I first visited Mr. S. a young gentleman, aged 21, of a slender form and sallow complexion. He complained of cough, *foetid* expectoration, difficulty of breathing, and a pain in the breast bone, which was augmented by sneezing, coughing, or by making a deep inspiration; these symptoms were of seven months' duration. The bowels were constipated, and the *faeces* dark or tar-like—the urine was high coloured—the tongue foul, and coated with yellowish mucus—loss of appetite—flesh and strength—a low irregular fever—pain felt on pressing the right hypochondre and the epigastric region, and both lobes of the liver were *apparently* enlarged."

"Apply *thirty-seven* leeches to the region of the liver. Take a pill of calomel and extract of colocynth every night, and two or three drachms of Epsom salt every morning."

January 10th. Has taken the pills and salt regularly; two or four dejections daily, dark or greenish—urine turbid—pain on pressing the right hypochondre and epigastric regions, abated. Continue the pill and Epsom salt.

January 23d. He feels somewhat relieved, but the *pectoral* symptoms continue, accompanied by morning sweat; *faeces* not quite so dark; soreness on pressing the right hypochondre. Apply a blister over the region of the liver. Continue the medicine.

February 10th. Considerably better—*pectoral* symptoms almost removed—no morning sweats—slight *ptyalism*—*faeces* brownish—urine deposits a lateritious sediment—no soreness on pressing the right hypochondre—appetite and spirits improved. Continue the pill and Epsom salt, and take twenty drops of the muriated tincture of iron, in a glass of tepid water.

On this case the Doctor makes the following remarks, which he considers "*practical*."

"We here witness an instance of the good effects of *topical* blood letting and of cathartics, combined with mercurials in removing *pectoral* symptoms, arising from *enlargement* and *irregular* actions of the *liver*. The urgent symptoms at the onset were cough, *foetid* expectoration, difficulty of breathing, and pain in the chest; followed by weakness, loss of appetite, heat of skin, and morning sweats; symptoms which gave rise to the suspicion of approaching pulmonary consumption. On the other hand, the sallow complexion, the indigestion, the morbid condition of the *faeces* and urine, were indicative of a diseased state of the liver; and, on examination, *both* lobes were *apparently* found enlarged, and extremely sensible to the touch."

Under such circumstances, adds the Doctor, it will be fortunate for the patient, if the physician direct his attention to the organ *chiefly* and *primarily* diseased.

The plan of treatment he adopted on the ground that the pulmonary symptoms were secondary; and as the habit was free from scrofula, he continued the mercury with a cathartic. "Their

first effect was to unload the bowels of their long-accumulated contents; the next, to produce a more healthy secretion of bile, and more regular alvine discharges. In proportion to the regularity and natural appearance of those excretions, the cough, dyspnoea, and the other pulmonary symptoms gradually gave way. But as cases of this nature are, for the most part, *insidious* in their attack, and *slow* in their progress, so they are found obstinate and difficult of removal; and this young gentleman took the medicines regularly more than three weeks before he experienced any decided relief."

"When the state of the digestive organs was amended, the chalybeate was given with effect as a restorative; a more generous diet was allowed, and country air, exercise on horseback, temperance and early hours were strongly recommended."

If symptoms have any thing to do with the name of a disease, the case we have quoted above was evidently incipient phthisis, or that inflammatory excitement of the membrane lining the bronchial ramifications and pleura, which immediately precedes it. To that disease the treatment adopted by the Doctor was as applicable as to an affection of the liver. The extraction of blood, application of a blister, aperient medicines, calomel, and an anodyne, were surely all as proper in one case as in the other. The observation that the application of leeches over the region of the liver is a *topical* one, betrays an ignorance of anatomy. It was certainly nearer to the liver than if they had been applied to the head, but with respect to connection by blood-vessels, it was as remote; and the effect in unloading the vessels of the liver would have been the same. This method of extracting blood, so frequently resorted to by physicians, in cases of internal inflammation and organic disease, is ridiculous. The quantity of blood extracted by a leech does not exceed one drachm, and the quantity that afterwards escapes from the punctures of skin covering the chest and bowels, although encouraged by the frequent application of warm water, falls very short of what should be taken away in such cases. On a napkin or in water, a few ounces of blood make much more show than they produce effect on the system.

The quantity of blood taken by thirty-seven leeches, and that which subsequently escapes, would not amount to more than eight ounces; and from the very slow manner in which it escapes, the benefit of the remedy is lost. Other objections to the application of leeches in such cases are, the impossibility to ascertain, with a necessary degree of accuracy, the quantity of blood that escapes after the removal of the leeches, and the difficulty that frequently happens of stopping the bleeding. Dr. Powell some time since was called to an adult who was very nearly bleeding to death; Chevalier Ruspini's styptic had been applied without any beneficial effect: The learned Doctor applied cob-web with success; and in a late number we have noticed a case of the death of a child from the continued bleeding of the puncture of a leech. The speedy extraction of eight ounces of blood from a vein more effectually unloads the vessels of an inflamed viscus than double or treble the quantity taken by leeches from the

skin. The conclusion therefore, that because the application of leeches over the region of the liver afforded relief, the disease was primarily and chiefly seated in the liver, is ridiculous. The idea that the seeds of nearly all the diseases to which poor humanity is subject are germinated in the liver, was first broached in this country by the Rev. Mr. Barclay, the proprietor of a *patent* antibilious pill. The lucky idea was industriously advertised; and an archbishop and several noblemen becoming converts to his doctrine, it became a fashion to term *all* complaints, particularly of the stomach and head, *bilious*. Parson Barclay carried his opinion so far as to assert, that the liver was placed in the machine chiefly to torment man, for indulgence in luxuries and dissipation. This doctrine succeeding, the antibilious pills were in great demand. The spiritual and temporal lords seem to vie with each other in declaring in strong terms, the wonderful benefits they derived from them!! The composition transpiring, soon proved fatal to their reputation. The fashion of attributing affections of the stomach to redundancy of bile, continuing, medical men availed themselves of it, and, from that period to the present, we have been inundated with publications on disorders of the liver and bilious complaints, and with *bilious* and *antibilious* remedies. Some writers have even gone further in their hypothetical theories than Parson Barclay, attributing local diseases of the extremities to a morbid state of the liver.

A person of common sense will naturally enquire why the liver should be more liable to disease than any other part of the body; and why other organs should particularly sympathise with it to that degree as to disturb their functions, and even to derange their structure. The liver, like other organs, derives its nourishment from the blood, and its power of exercising its office from the brain, or the ganglionic system: why then should it be more liable to disease? Its secretion in the animal economy is not of greater or so great an importance as that of the kidneys, the stomach, or the pancreas; and therefore, why should the lungs or any organ suffer by its not duly performing its office more than by a disease or sluggish state of any other viscus?

Again, we find, that a very considerable portion of the liver may be destroyed by suppuration without materially affecting the secretion of bile or disturbing the general health. The office of the stomach being to prepare materials for the nourishment of the body, the health of every organ must greatly depend upon the proper performance of its functions; for if the chyle be not good, the body will not be properly nourished. Again, the stomach and every other organ deriving their nervous energy from the brain, and the ganglionic system, their powers of performing their offices must depend upon a healthy condition of the brain, and, therefore, they are more likely to be disturbed by an affection of the brain, than the brain is to be disordered by them. How are we to account for the effects of disgusting objects in exciting vomiting? Will Dr. Mills say that in that case the liver was *primarily* affected, and

the brain secondly, and the stomach lastly? The fashion of terming all diseases nervous, which prevailed before the introduction of Parson Barclay's bilious system, was certainly more rational than the prevailing one, of attributing all diseases to a morbid state of the liver; for the brain, and its ramifications the nerves, are in general chiefly, if not primarily affected. According to the liver system of Drs. Mills, Currie, and Mr. Abernethy, the brain and nervous system, in which the primary moving powers of the body unquestionably reside, have nothing to do with disease. With them the liver is every thing; to it we are even to look for the origin of a disease, and for assistance to subdue it; and if mercury succeeds in restoring a patient to health, no other proof can be necessary, in their opinion, to convince the patient that their supposition was correct, as if mercury acted on no other part of the body. They do not condescend to tell us what part of the liver is diseased, or indeed the nature of the disease which impedes its functions. If the disease be inflammatory, inflammation we know chiefly depends on nerves,—for without nervous excitement there would be no preternatural determination of blood to the part; and as the nerves receive their energy from the brain, surely the disease may be traced to that organ. If the discerning vessels do not perform their office, or if the absorbent vessels are languid, still we are to refer it to the brain, because they receive their power of acting from it. Of the use of the fluid secreted by the liver, termed bile, in the animal economy, they do not condescend to inform their readers. Is it excrementitious, as intimated by Boerhaave, or does it separate chyle in the duodenum from the digested mass received from the stomach, as stated by Abernethy? The most plausible hypothesis of the office of the liver is, that it separates from the venous blood carburetted hydrogen, in order to prepare it for the change it is afterwards to undergo in the lungs. This is, we believe, the office of the liver, and in this it acts in concert with the internal surface of the colon, the secretion of which is excrementitious.

When the biliary duct is so obstructed that no bile can pass into the duodenum, the process of chylification is not interrupted, and the bile passes off with another excrementitious secretion, the urine; and if the internal surface of the colon be irritated by throwing a stimulating liquor up the rectum, the *feces* will be tinged with an appearance of being properly changed with bile. The good effects of the nitro-muriatic bath, so highly extolled by Dr. Scott as a remedy for bilious complaints, arise from its operation on the colon; for unless the absorbed acid produces griping pain, the appearance of the evacuations from the bowels will not be changed, nor will any advantage be derived from it. From its liability to disorder the brain, and to produce apoplexy, it is a very dangerous remedy. The stationary, and sometimes retrograde state of medicine within the two last centuries, are attributable solely to the doctrines of system-mongers. Whoever reads with attention the history of medicine from the time of Hippocrates to the present period, will be convinced that its progress has been

retarded by the theories of system-mongers, and a blind admiration of new doctrines. The methodics, the Galenists, the chemists, and the mathematicians, who respectively taught *narrow* and *exclusive* doctrines of disease, flourished for a time. From the opinions, however of all, the practitioner who proceeds on an extensive view of the laws of animal life, may cull some useful practical information; and he who is desirous to cultivate the science of medicine for the benefit of mankind, will not wholly neglect such researches; for every system that has been broached, is not entirely destitute of some useful point; indeed, the humoral pathology, which is now totally neglected, is as rational as any that has since been promulgated; for it directs us to researches into the morbid condition of the fluids of the body, and especially of the blood, which, in the treatment of diseases, is of great importance; and had it not been carried too far, by its enthusiastic and narrow-minded adherents, instead of falling into utter neglect, it would probably have existed in an improved state to remote ages. If we give the nervous system its importance in the animal machine, how much more rational would this system of pathology be than the prevailing one of the present day! We shall subjoin a few cases of disease, which were attributed to the influence of a morbid state of the liver, to elucidate the folly, to say the best of it, of the narrow view the admirers of the liver or bile doctrines take of disease.

Master S., aged eight years, was affected with incessant cough, copious expectoration, general emaciation, and great debility. Dr. Currie gave his decided opinion that the liver was nearly destroyed by disease. Calomel proved unavailing. On dissection, the liver was found perfectly free from any appearance of disease. Both lungs were extensively ulcerated, and a considerable quantity of serum and pus was found diffused in the cavities of the chest.

Mrs. R., aged 65, was affected with diarrhœa, acute pains about the lower parts of the bowels, great emaciation, and occasional discharge of blood by stool. The complaint was attributed to a diseased liver, and a blue pill was accordingly prescribed. On dissection, the liver was found perfectly sound—the internal surface of the rectum was much ulcerated, and the colon indurated and contracted.

R. S. complained of loss of appetite, occasional diarrhœa, nausea, giddiness, &c. On the left side there was a considerable tumor, which Mr. Cline, after examination, pronounced an enlargement of the left lobe of the liver: calomel was accordingly prescribed. On dissection, the liver was found to be perfectly healthy, the tumor being an enlargement of the spleen!!

Mrs. F., aged 59, complained of very acute pains within the pelvis, an obtuse pain in the loins, nausea, flatulence, head-ache, frequent rigours, &c. The physician attributed her sufferings to a disease of the liver; and calomel was accordingly administered twice a day. On dissection by Mr. Charles Bell, the uterus was found much enlarged, and the neck of it scirrhus and ulcerated. The liver was free from disease.

Several cases of disease of the brain, lungs, bladder, &c., transmitted to us by medical men of experience and observation, which were attributed to hepatic influence, we might here introduce to prove the absurdity of attributing disease of remote parts of the body to the influence of a morbid condition of the liver, if the preceding cases, which occurred within our own practice, were not sufficient to prove the hepatic system, or, as Dr. Currie has modestly denominated it, the *Currian system*, as dangerous a system of *empiricism* as any that has been promulgated in this or any other country. If all disorders of the system originate in the liver, and are to be cured by battering that organ every twenty-four hours with mercury, and by keeping up a regular action of the bowels; every patient must be as competent, if not more so, to the medical treatment of his own case, as any physician. He has only to take five grains of the blue or calomel pill every night, a draught of camomile tea twice a day, and a dose of an aperient salt occasionally to obviate costiveness; to subdue disease of any part of the body. We advise Dr. Mills, and other inspectors of fæces, to read with attention the remarks of Erasistratus on the effects of purgative and other medicines on the colour of the alvine evacuations, and also to attend to the effects of different vegetable and animal food on them. The alteration produced in the colour of the fæces by calomel, depends more on its operation on the intestinal canal, particularly the portion termed colon, than on the liver; and when it fails to excite irritation in the latter, so as to occasion griping pains or diarrhœa, the colour of the fæces will not be materially changed by it.

In our next number we shall introduce the opinions delivered by the different system-mongers of this country, with respect to the cause and mode of treating the case of the late Orang Outang, which will enable our non-medical readers to form a proper estimate of their respective merits, and will emphatically point out the wonderful resources medicine affords in cases of disease. That highly-interesting article will give rise to the question, Why does man die, who has the *means* and opportunity to apply either to Drs. Currie, Mills, Yeates, Pemberton, or to Parson Carrington's life-securing pills?

INCONTINENCE OF URINE.—Dr. John Maclean, of Edinburgh, has published a case of Incontinence of Urine that was cured by the tincture of cantharides. The subject, aged forty-two, after indulgence in the excessive use of spirituous liquors for several years, was afflicted with incontinence of urine. Dr. Maclean, attributing the complaint to relaxation of the urinary passages from habitual intemperance, prescribed the peruvian bark, and directed him to abstain entirely from spirituous liquors, to live chiefly on animal food, and to employ sea bathing, with a view to invigorate the debilitated parts. This treatment having failed, the doctor recommended the tincture of cantharides in small doses, which was gradually increased to twenty drops three times a day in a demulcent vehicle, as the almond emulsion, barley water, or an infusion of linseed. After

taking this medicine for a few weeks, stranguary occurred, which on discontinuing it, subsided; and shortly afterwards, by persevering in the regimen he directed, and the occasional use of the tincture, the complaint entirely left him, and during a considerable interval which has since elapsed, he has remained entirely free from it.

TIC DOLOREUX.—Mr. Kerrison has lately administered the Peruvian Bark in full doses, with complete success, in several cases of long standing and obstinacy of this distressing disease. He advises the powder of the best pale Peruvian bark to be given to the extent of a drachm every two or three hours, in milk or water; and if the stomach will not bear this quantity, from twenty to thirty grains, with half a drachm of the extract (gum-resin) of the same species, as frequently as the stomach will bear them. In one case, a drachm of the powder was given with half a drachm of the gum-resinous extract (dissolved in water) every two hours. This treatment for the first week generally aggravates the disease, which, Mr. K. observes, portends favourably; for in every instance after persisting in its use a few days longer, the pain gradually abates till it entirely ceases, and the cures which have been thus effected appear to be permanent. Dr. Pemberton has for some time suffered exceedingly by this disease—a medical consultation is held every week at his house, but hitherto he has derived no benefit from the results of their deliberations, although the nitrate of silver and some of the mineral and vegetable poisons have been pushed as far as was considered prudent.

DIABETES.—We have lately met with a case of this disease, in which the extract of hemlock in the dose of five grains three times a day, succeeded in the course of three weeks in reducing the quantity of urine voided in a day, from six quarts to one. The quality of it was also corrected by it. This extract should be made by evaporating the juice immediately after it is expressed by a gentle heat in a water bath. The virtue of this plant resides chiefly in its volatile parts, which, by the great heat employed by many druggists to evaporate, the decoction or the expressed juice is dissipated.—The extract should be of a fresh green colour, and entirely free from empyreuma.

SCROFULA.—The expressed juice of the cliver, in the quantity of half a tea-cupful three times a day, has proved very successful in correcting the scrofulous constitution, and in curing local affections of joints and glands which had resisted regular and irregular remedies—Mrs. Pearson's celebrated specific not excepted. Poultices made with the recently expressed juice and fine oatmeal, we have found uniformly to correct the discharge of scrofulous ulcers, to abate the attendant inflammation, and in a short time to heal them. Having inserted a letter from Mrs. Pearson in a former number, on the antiscrofulous properties of her nostrum, we consider it our duty to state, that we have not met with one case of decided scrofula in which it proved of the smallest advantage, and in one instance the patient regularly persisted in its use for eight months!!

GRAVEL.—In an early number we introduced some observations on the treatment of Red and White Gravel, by Mr. Brande:

In a late communication Mr. Brande observes, "that subsequent experience has completely justified the character he there gave of the advantages of magnesia as a *preventive* of red gravel." He does not, however, recommend it to the exclusion of the other alkalies; for in many cases he says, "that it is improper where they may be properly employed; but where potass and soda have been so long used as to disagree with the stomach, creating nausea, flatulence, a sense of weight, pain, and other symptoms of indigestion, magnesia may be adopted with the greatest chance of success." The caustic alkalies he recommends to be taken in a vegetable mucilaginous liquor, as barley water, decoction of marshmallow-root, &c. From ten to twenty drops of the liquor of potass of the London Pharmacopœia may be taken night and morning, or three times a day, in a glass of barley water, or decoction of marshmallow-root. From half a drachm to two drachms of the liquor of ammonia of the London Pharmacopœia may be taken in a sufficient quantity of water; but the sub-carbonate of ammonia is as effectual, and has the advantage of being administerable in the form of pills, in which it may be advantageously united with a stomachic bitter, gravel being the consequence of indigestion,—as the following:

Take of sub-carbonate of ammonia, twenty grains; extract of camomile, one drachm; powdered Jamaica ginger root, twenty grains. Mix and divide into twenty-four pills; two or three to be taken twice or thrice a day.

The sub-carbonate of soda, Mr. Brande observes, may be taken twice a day, as recommended by Sir Gilbert Blane, dissolved in a little water; to which half an ounce of lemon juice is to be added at the time of taking it. The addition of the acid certainly renders the draught more agreeable to the palate, as Mr. Brande and Sir Gilbert observe; but by neutralizing the soda and disengaging the carbonic acid gas before it can probably enter the stomach, is it not rendered inert? We coincide in opinion with Mr. Abernethy and others, that the beneficial effects of the alkaline medicines in gravel, arise entirely from their neutralizing the acid in the stomach; and if the soda be previously neutralized, it cannot produce this effect. The citrate of soda or potass, which is an aperient only, possesses no advantage over the tritrite of soda or potass, or any other neutral salt; at least, we have never discovered any other effect from them, than is uniformly produced by the common neutral aperient salts, and we are decidedly of opinion that the addition of lemon juice to soda water renders it inefficacious in cases of gravel or stone.

SODA WATER.—Mr. Brande has ascertained that the article sold under this name, contains so small a proportion of soda as to be little else than water impregnated with fixed air. Soda water, he says, "should be kept in the shops, single, double, and treble. The first should contain half a drachm, the second one drachm, and the third two drachms of the *crystallized sub-carbonate* of soda in half a pint, and from one to three half-pints may be taken daily, as it proves agreeable or efficacious. Both Mr. Brande, and Mr. Pepys have detected copper, zinc, and sometimes lead in soda water, arising from the vessels in which the article was prepared. Mr. Johnston,

chemist, of Greek Street, detected this impregnation some years ago, and in consequence of which he had a machine made at a considerable expence, for preparing it without the use of any metallic substance that could possibly contaminate the water. The soda water prepared by him contains a proper proportion of soda. We have ascertained that the article generally sold in stone bottles, is a very weak solution of potass supersaturated with fixed air. The single, double, and treble soda water recommended by Mr. Brande, may be obtained at the Medical Hall, 171, Piccadilly; and No. 1, Clarendon Square, Somers Town. The same preparation of magnesia, which we consider an improvement on soda, may be procured at the same places.

SCIRRHOUS ENLARGEMENT of the NECK of the WOMB.
In a far advanced case of this most formidable malady, a decoction of the marshmallow root, the extract of hemlock, and the occasional use of mercury, have completely succeeded in removing the disease and re-establishing the general health of the patient, which had greatly suffered by it. The lady (fifty years of age) was of opinion that the complaint had been gradually advancing for two years. She took regularly, for one year, nearly three pints of the decoction of the dried marshmallow root (foreign) daily; every night at bed-time five grains of the extract of hemlock, to which was added one grain of calomel, for ten successive nights in every month. The bowels were kept in a regular state by a weak solution of the Epsom salt. Having never indulged in the use of vinous or spirituous liquors, or high-seasoned dishes, no alteration was made in her diet. When the nature and extent of the disease were first ascertained, the practitioner considered it incurable. It was at her own suggestion that she took the decoction of the marshmallow root; an account of it which she had read in an old Herbal, inspired her with such confidence in its alterative virtues, that she was strongly prepossessed with the idea that it would cure her.

SARSAPARILLA.—SIRs, — At different times, no medicine has been more extolled for the cure of a certain disease, than that of sarsaparilla;—it has as frequently fallen into disuse. Some have thought it a medicine of great efficacy, while others have supposed it to be an inert mucilaginous bitter. I shall offer you the following remarks, from the result of cases that have fallen under my own observation, and in which the sarsaparilla had been employed.

In those cases of lues venerea, where from great debility the patient has been unable immediately to enter on a course of mercury, I have found it a most useful medicine in stopping its progress, as well as giving strength to the patient; I have likewise found venereal eruptions to disappear under its use, and to relieve those pains (so constant an attendant on this disease) sooner than under the use of mercury; but in cases combined with ulceration of the throat, I have not found it to succeed so well; in similar cases, I have made use of Peruvian bark, sassafras, mezereon, a decoction of marshmallows, nitric acid, &c. without the same good effect. Now, although I have found sarsaparilla to relieve symptoms much sooner than mercury, it does not, as mercury, prevent their return; yet, I doubt not but a resumption of the remedy, on the re-appearance of the symptoms, would ultimately cure the disease;—I am not at

present, although I hope at some future period to be, able to decide that important point. I have likewise found it useful in scrofula, and in those diseases of the legs termed leprosy; the powder I have found to succeed better than either the decoction or extract, given in doses of one to one drachm and a half three times in the day. Sarsaparilla, therefore, although incapable of curing the primary, is not to be considered a medicine as useless in the cure of secondary symptoms of syphilis. I am, your obedient humble servant,

London, April, 1819.

A CONSTANT READER.

The article generally sold under the name of powder of sarsaparilla, is the part of the trunk of the shrub which is attached to the root. It has little bark, and appears to possess no medicinal virtue whatever. From this part, termed sarsaparilla champs, the extract is generally made. With these facts, surgeons are unacquainted. Dr. Cullen, in speaking of the medicinal virtues of the sarsaparilla root, observes, "if I were to consult my own experience alone, I should not give this root a place in the *Materia Medica*; for, tried in every shape, I have never found it effectual in syphilis or any other disease." The results of the numerous trials we have made of it, both in private and hospital practice, for twenty-five years, confirm in our minds the truth of Dr. Cullen's observations. We shall be happy to be favoured with the results of our intelligent Correspondent's further trials with it.

SAFFRON, &c.—Says,—It is much to be lamented that the act of the legislature, respecting the education of apothecaries, and examination of the drugs of apothecaries and retail chemists, have failed to check, or even to lessen the infamous practice of adulterating drugs, and substituting articles possessing no virtue whatever for those of real value. The article first manufactured by the worthy chemist and druggist, late of Fleet Street, to whom I served my apprenticeship, as a substitute for saffron, I find is generally sold throughout this country under the name of "cake saffron," and that too by druggists who are considered respectable. This imitation of the English saffron cake is made by steeping the marigold flowers in a strong infusion of saffron, and after evaporating part of the water they absorb, by placing them on tin plates on a sand heat; they are compressed into cakes, which are afterwards cut into proper shapes, and the surface sprinkled over with a little true saffron, when they are again subjected to a slight compression. This article is sold to druggists in the country at six shillings and sixpence a pound, and retailed at the rate of thirty-six shillings, whereas the true saffron cannot be procured at the first hand for less than fifty-six shillings a pound!!

Another infamous traffic is the substitution of the shavings of bones, for those of the horns of stags. So general is this practice, that there is scarcely a shop in this kingdom where the bone shavings are not substituted for hartshorn shavings. The shavings of bones scarcely yield any gelatinous matter to water on boiling, whereas the water in which the true hartshorn shavings have been boiled, on becoming cold, forms a strong, and no doubt, a very nutritious jelly.

I have heard a physician say, Why should not the shavings of bones be as good as those of horns, which are, in fact, bones?—The answer is, that bones, by the process to which they are subjected, to render them white and sweet, are deprived of their gelatinous property. The collectors of bones for this manufactory are totally indifferent to what animal they belonged—to them the bones of dogs, horses, and asses are equally valuable; and whether sweet or in a putrid state, is of no consequence to them—for stink they must before they can be bleached. The shavings of bones may be detected from those of the stag's-horn, in being very white, large, and affording no jelly on boiling. Those of the stag's-horn are brown, small, and heavy; and, on being boiled in water, yield a strong jelly. My late worthy master, having displayed much ingenuity in the adulteration and imitation of drugs, it will be in my power to communicate to you much important information on this species of traffic, provided you encourage me so to do, by inserting this letter. This I consider myself at liberty to do, as he has long paid his debt to nature. Notwithstanding his talents for this lucrative trade, and "turning every thing to an advantage," he died in a workhouse in Yorkshire; and this has been the fate of others, who for a time flourished in this diabolical traffic. I am, Sirs,

Your Constant Reader,

RICHARD FRANKS.

Bishopsgate Street, April 12th, 1819.

ARNATTO.—Sirs,—The article sold in this country for colouring cheese, is made by mixing the flake arnatto imported from Spain, (after dissolving it in water and straining it through a sieve) with turmeric powder and ochre. I certainly have known a small proportion of gamboge added in making a better sort, and also clay and Armenian bole for an inferior sort. That the patent yellow has been also employed by a manufacturer ignorant of its poisonous quality, I have strong reason to believe. If it be necessary to colour cheese, why not use saffron or turmeric, which can communicate nothing injurious? I am, Sirs, Your obedient servant,

Broad Street, April 17th, 1819.

JAMES REED.

RED PARTICLES of the BLOOD.—A correspondent at Edinburgh informs us, that during a conversation respecting the shape of the red particles of blood, in the presence of His Imperial Highness the Archduke Maximilian of Austria, His Highness took an animated share in the discussion, and gave a drawing of the form of the red particles as discovered by Amici, the professor of mathematics at Modena. He adds—the Prince, not a little to their astonishment, soon satisfied them that he was as well acquainted with physiology, chemistry, anatomy, and mathematics, as themselves. These highly interesting branches of philosophy constitute a part of the education of the German prince, and even the Russian princes; and in those countries men of science meet with proper encouragement, and impostors with their deserts. Were the princes of this *enlightened* country (as *they* represent it to be) to devote a little of their time to the cultivation of those sciences, how different would be the list of royal medical officers, and how much more creditable would it be to the country and beneficial to themselves!

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

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To JUNE 1, 1819.

VOL. IV.

OF DOCTOR AINSLIE,

A Fellow of the London Royal College of Physicians, a Graduate of the University of Cambridge, and Member of the Royal Society.

THIS learned gentleman is the son of the late Mr. Ainslie, who for many years practised the healing art with great credit to himself at Kendal, and who died possessed of considerable property, which he principally left to his son. The doctor received the rudiments of his classical education at a seminary in his native place, where he displayed such acuteness of observation, and proofs of great ingenuity and taste for the Belles Lettres, which, his father conceived, placed him far above the trade of boluses, pills and draughts, and fully to justify his sending him to an English university, from which so many luminaries in divinity, law and physic have emanated; having no doubt, in whatever profession he might make his debüt, he would prove a constellation of the first magnitude, and that the name of Ainslie would make as brilliant an appearance in the pages of the history of his country, as a Newton or a Pope.

During the first years of his residence at Cambridge, he seemed to pursue his studies with the view of displaying his abilities in the church. Like the admirable Crichton, he could relax his mind when in the society of his gay associates, so that the interest of the inhabitants of Cambridge did not materially suffer by his examples, or the time he devoted to physical and metaphysical researches. The intellectual superiority he felt over those who formed his evening party, the object of which was to ascertain the effects of different vinous productions on the human system, gave him such a degree of confidence that he soon became a Wrangler, which his biographer notices, with a degree of exultation, as "a most decisive proof of great talents!"

Having kept the number of terms which entitled him to a doctor's degree, he made choice of that of medicine, an advantage which we believe no other university but those of Oxford and Cambridge affords. No examination with respect to medical acquirements being deemed necessary, a graduate is at liberty to take the degree which may best suit his future prospects in life! After receiving this academical honour, the doctor commenced his professional career in London with a degree of confidence which evinced a conviction in his own mind, that he was competent to the important office of exercising the medical art as a *physician*; and although one would suppose that at that time his object was *experience*, the doctor considered himself fully entitled to the customary fee for his advice. Being a graduate of an English university, he became a *Fellow* of the Royal College of Physicians, which placed him above the most experienced graduates of the Scotch universities. He

was, according to the charter of the college, competent to practise in the most complex cases of diseases, whilst the graduates of the other universities, who were only licentiates of the college, were deemed qualified to prescribe for simple cases only. The doctor was therefore a *consulting* physician, and able to direct the experienced licentiates—even a Babbington, a Farre, and a Farquhar!!! The absurd idea having been propagated that some experience is necessary to form a *judicious* or a *safe* practitioner, and that the graduates of universities, where lectures are regularly delivered on the different branches of medicine, that afford opportunities for acquiring *practical* information; and where a candidate for a doctor's degree is *examined* as to his competency to practise medicine, is more entitled to the confidence of a patient than the one who has spent his time at a place where lectures are not delivered on medicine, that afford no opportunity for acquiring practical information, and where a *medical* diploma is granted as a matter of course, without any previous examination in medicine. The doctor had plenty of time to devote to a favorite rural pursuit, viz. the improvement in the plantation of forest trees, which was considered by the Royal Society of London, of such political importance, that they almost unanimously voted him a gold medal, by way of encouraging him to continue his experiments and investigation. The communications the doctor made at different times on this subject, his biographer states, were highly creditable to him:—"To clothe the barren heath," says he, and to extend and promote vegetable life, is a task *more pleasing* and *successful* in its attempts, than to prop up with doubtful and *too often* unsuccessful care the decaying stems of animal existence. The one presents the picture of hope, animation, and pleasure; and the other the sombre shades of chagrin, disappointment, and ennui"!! The practitioner who cannot bring the rays of every department of medicine to bear on the grand question of practice, will doubtless too often find his attempts to combat disease unsuccessful; but to him who, in consequence of being conversant with all its branches, is conscious that it is in his power to effect all that human ingenuity can accomplish, what can possibly be more gratifying than even the attempt to mitigate the afflictions of his fellow-creatures? The pleasure the properly educated physician experiences in employing his talents in lessening the sum of human misery, in promoting the recovery of health, and mitigating the anguish of disease, we conceive to be infinitely more gratifying than that an agriculturist may experience in covering the barren heath, and in promoting vegetable life.

Doctor Ainslie possesses in an eminent (we were near saying an enviable) degree, the *exterior* qualifications of a physician. His appearance, on entering the chamber of the sick, is highly prepossessing; and, in approaching the bed-side, he displays the firmness of a stoical philosopher, and the dignity of a modern or fashionable physician—his toes and his eyes being properly directed. At the bed-side, his attitudes are graceful and impressive. In his listening position, he exhibits much ease, and his countenance displays firmness and sympathy. His interrogations are pointed; and

his observations and instructions are so plausible, that the good old women who are present generally agree in pronouncing him to be "a good kind of man." Of his interior qualifications, the doctor has not given us the means of forming an opinion, for he has not condescended to make any communication on subjects connected with medicine. In the society of medical men, he seems studiously to avoid medical discussions; and as to his prescriptions, we never met with one that would have done credit to an apothecary. He has broached no new doctrines, nor does he pretend to have any system of his own. We have heard of his being consulted by a royal Duke, but of no "lucky hit" that has raised him in the estimation of any family of distinction. In the case of the Duke of Sussex, he may however have been particularly successful, for it does not appear that his Royal Highness found it necessary to consult him a second time. He has not held the appointment of physician to any charitable institution, so that his means of obtaining experience has been very limited; being a *Fellow* of the Royal College, he may have supposed, as others have, that to hold such an office would derogate from his dignity. During the last illness of the Irish Demosthenes, Mr. Curran, he had the good fortune of being appointed his physician; but his disease continuing to advance, the learned Barrister was so ungracious as to request the attendance of Dr. John Robertson. Dr. Ainslie, on meeting this gentleman, expressed his astonishment at his audacity in presuming to meet him in consultation. *Mister Robertson*, he emphatically observed, was not only an *irregular* man, but the author of a work which was pronounced to be a very indecent production. As for himself, Mr. Curran should have known that he was a *classical* descendant of the great father of medicine, Hippocrates, and *all* the ancient philosophers, and therefore it was his duty to uphold the consequence and dignity of the Royal College of Physicians, an institution erected on the lucubrations of the learned of all nations. Dr. Robertson replied, that although he did not possess a licence from the College of Physicians to practise medicine within the limits of their jurisdiction, he was a *regular* graduate of Edinburgh; and having received his education in the schools of anatomy, chemistry, and pharmacy, he considered himself as well qualified to exercise the healing art, as the man who had acquired his knowledge of diseases in the closet. As to his work, which Dr. Baillie had been pleased to term an indecent production, the doctor had expressed to him, in very friendly terms, his approbation of it; and it was not until he had dared to condemn the practice of Sir Everard Home (Dr. Baillie's brother in law) in urethral stricture, that he discovered it to be an indecent production!! The work was purely medical; and the object of it being to communicate what he considered important information, it was not more entitled to be termed indecent, than Dr. Baillie's description of certain local morbid affections, or Dr. Denman's Treatise on Midwifery.

This altercation, which we have noticed in a former number under the head of "Medical Fracas," was terminated by the interference of a friend of Mr. Curran, who observed to Dr. Ainslie, that he

thought, to dwell on etiquette at a time when the life of the patient was rapidly drawing to a close, was highly indecorous, if not disgraceful to a man who professes christianity. "The case is," said he, with a countenance strongly expressive of indignation, "Mr. Curran has a very high opinion of Dr. Robertson, and as you have attended Mr. Curran from the commencement of his indisposition, I do conceive that it is your duty to consult with the doctor as to the nature of his disease, and to the best means of restoring him to health, or of mitigating his sufferings, in case his malady be deemed incurable. His case will not admit of delay, and therefore, if you suppose that your dignity will suffer by attending with Dr. Robertson, I beg you will resign the patient entirely to his management."—The doctor could not submit to the degradation, and with the coolness of a stoic, he took his fee and his final leave.—Doctor Robertson, on meeting the doctor a short time afterwards, had the audacity to observe, that the time was not far distant when those practitioners which he and the college presumed to term *irregular*, would be considered entitled to the entire confidence of patients, and that those whom they represented to be *regular*, would be considered contemptible Quacks;—viz. those who could boast only of having kept a certain number of terms at an university where even the rudiments of the art are not taught. The college may boast of being classically descended from Hippocrates and Galen, but the public, who has not been inattentive to the progress of chemistry and surgery, fancy that they discover a rational system of medicine emanating from these departments, and that many were so foolish as to consider the practitioner who is unacquainted with them, to be no more entitled to the confidence of the afflicted, than the most impudent advertising charlatan.

It may be policy in the graduates of the English universities to attempt to prejudice the public against the physicians who have received their education at medical schools, but the generality of mankind is too enlightened on the subject to be misled by their sophistry and misrepresentations. The physicians of this metropolis generally boast of some superior knowledge of a branch of medicine. We have a set who endeavour to force themselves on public notice for a superior knowledge of anatomy, another of chemistry; another of morbid appearances, or diseased structure, and another for some important discovery on the nature of animal life.—We have not heard of Dr. Ainslie having particularly laid claim to either of these acquirements; and in what his fort lies, we have not been able to discover.—Dr. Baillie has enjoyed a considerable share of public confidence, in consequence of his acquaintance with what is termed "morbid anatomy." The idea has been very prevalent, that the person who is acquainted with the appearances of diseased structure, and who is conversant with the mechanism of the body, must be the most competent to undertake the cure of diseases, particularly those that are seated internally. A man may be well acquainted with the appearances different organic diseases exhibit on dissection, and with the structure of the human body, and yet be a very bad, nay, a very dangerous physician. The man who is in the habit of sawing or cutting

up the trunks of trees, may very satisfactorily describe the appearances the interior parts exhibit, whether morbid or natural; but will this knowledge enable him to point out the means of preventing or curing a disease, or to suggest any plan of management in order to prevent disease or improve the plantation? If a practitioner be unacquainted with the medical agents that are employed in the cure of diseases, his boasted knowledge of anatomy and morbid appearances amounts to nothing. The man, ignorant of chemistry, cannot venture to prescribe chemical preparations, which are unquestionably the most powerful we possess to combat disease; for if he does not know—what mischief he may do by certain compositions, some mild preparations being rendered active poisons by the addition of another apparently as innocent, while other active remedies may be rendered inert by a slight admixture.

Whatever stock of knowledge Dr. Ainslie took to Cambridge, we cannot ascertain that he has brought much from it.—As this is the case with so many physicians of this metropolis who received their boasted education at the English Universities—

“No wonder that Oxford and Cambridge profound,

“In learning and science so greatly abound;

“When all carry thither a little each day,

“And meet with so few who bring any away.”

Let us however hope, that Doctor Ainslie is accumulating facts, which, at some future time, he will promulgate for the benefit of mankind.

Some of our worthy *friends* have been so kind as to state, in a certain quarter, that the object of the Editors of this work is to “write down classical learning, and to prejudice the public against those physicians who inculcate the necessity of a physician being acquainted with the writings of the ancients.” Now, the fact is, that no man can more highly estimate classical learning than ourselves; but we contend that classical learning alone cannot qualify a man to direct the medical treatment of diseases.

The office of a physician is a most important one; and he who undertakes it, incurs an awful degree of responsibility. To tamper with the life of a near relative or friend, for the sake of the fee, is a crime scarcely to be surpassed. We repeat that the object of our biographical sketches is not to censure, but to point out to proper models for imitation, in order to induce medical students properly to qualify themselves to discharge the important duties of their profession with credit to themselves, and justice to the public.

In compliment to Dr. Ainslie and his liberal-minded colleagues, who modestly assume the humble station of *consulting* or *directing* physicians, we shall conclude this article with admonitory reflections on the manners of a physician, from the works of the father of medicine, from whom they boast of being “classically descended,” which we recommend to their serious perusal.—“Be affable; for if austerity be repulsive to those who are in health, it is still more so to those who are suffering from disease. Do not amuse *yourself* with long discourses before *ill-informed* people, but speak of those things with precision, which are strictly necessary to *their* welfare. Before you visit sick persons, remember what is to be done for *their* good:

it is comfort and alleviation of their afflictions which *they* require, not verbal arguments. On entering their chamber, do not neglect either the manner in which you take your seat by them, the arrangement of your dress, or your personal actions and behaviour. Remember that you are invested with real authority. Let your answers be short and precise. Maintain a state of calmness amidst the trouble with which you are surrounded; and be *ever ready* for prompt and judicious exertion of your aid. In serious cases, be diligent in your attendance, that you may witness the important changes of the disease, and promptly remedy any errors which may have recently occurred; *but*, above all, qualify yourself to undertake the practice, both by *study* and *experience*, before you embark in it; and never trust to your own judgment, in cases of obscurity, when you can have recourse to the assistance of one, whom you know to be more skilful than yourself. Be not conceited; for *conceit* is a constant attendant on ignorance."

HYDROPHOBIA.—A very distressing case of this disease lately occurred at Sheffield. By the narrative published by Mr. Overend, an eminent practitioner of that place, it appears that about the commencement of last February, in the house of his mother-in-law, where he and his wife resided, a young dog was affected (as they supposed) with the disease termed the distemper, of which, in the space of a week or ten days, he died. From the commencement of the disease, to the time of its death, it was irritable and savage, repeatedly biting another dog in the house, snatched at every person who attempted to caress it, and once assailed the patient; but whether the animal scratched or penetrated the skin with his fangs, no one could positively assert. It is further stated, that the patient was in the habit of thoughtlessly introducing his hand into the mouth of the dog, to prove his docile state; and some weeks preceding the indisposition of the animal, he suffered one of the dogs to lick a wound that he had recently received on the shin, from the idea that a wound licked by a dog would heal without trouble. Whether the dog was mad, or died of the distemper, Mr. Overend declines to give an opinion. On Saturday, the 3d of April, the patient went to his work at the usual time, without any obvious symptoms of indisposition, and returned to his dinner at noon. When the meal was presented to him, he observed to his wife that he felt unwell, and took much less than his usual quantity. He returned to, and continued his employment during the afternoon. On attempting to drink a glass of beer, after finishing his day's work, at the house where he and his companions received their wages, he felt some impediment in swallowing the fluid, resulting, as he described it, from a *rising* in his throat; he consequently left the beer, and returned to his home, where he sat down to tea in company with his wife; in attempting to drink it, he remarked to her, that a painful rising in his throat prevented him swallowing at the heat he usually drank it. He suffered it to cool, but soon discovered that the heat of the tea had no influence over the impediment in swallowing, and that a few drops nearly cool in the teaspoon, annoyed him as much as a larger quantity in the cup, possessing a higher temperature. After several ineffectual attempts,

he relinquished the painful conflict, and retired from the table without quenching his thirst. After tea his wife made preparations for leaving him for a short period, with an intention to purchase necessities in the market for the ensuing week. The idea of being left alone excited in his mind some feelings of distress, that induced him to request she would get through her operations with all possible dispatch. As he had received little nourishment from his last meal, his wife, on her return, was anxious to prepare him something in a solid form, and accordingly cooked him some meat; but the want of appetite, combined with the difficulty attendant on deglutition, were insurmountable barriers to his eating; he consequently relinquished his supper and retired to rest, and slept until four o'clock in the morning. Feeling restless and indisposed, he shortly after left his bed, and desired his wife to prepare breakfast. In attempting to swallow the tea, he found his incapacity in that respect considerably increased, and the moment it came in contact with his lips, he was seized with spasms in the throat, almost amounting to suffocation, combined with indescribable horror and excessive anxiety. In the course of the morning he obtained some water with an intention of washing himself, but the moment his hands came in contact with the fluid, he was instantly seized with convulsive sobbing, similar to that feeling commonly experienced by individuals who walk deliberately into a cold bath. On applying the water to his face, violent spasms were produced in his throat and chest, that left on his mind the impression of great alarm.

Early in the forenoon (Sunday) he was in a state of great perturbation and anxiety, but very deliberately described the state of his sufferings from their commencement, and with determined fortitude and manly resolution, shewed his painful incapacity to swallow fluids, by attempting to drink a small quantity of water, which produced an effect truly alarming.

At this interview he was copiously *bled*, and a bolus and mixture were immediately sent him; the former of which was taken, and operated properly; but the latter remained in a great degree unswallowed, after many a fruitless effort; and many a manly resolution to conquer the horror and repugnance he entertained for all kinds of liquids. Early in the evening Mr. Overend found him in bed, with the upper part of his chest uncovered, to avoid, as he expressed it, the steam that issued from the bed clothes against his face, and produced spasms that alarmed and disturbed him to excess. He hailed his entrance into the room with the most friendly salutations, expressed his gratitude for attention, and informed him he had experienced great benefit from the bleeding for more than two hours after the operation; and that it had enabled him to support the painful application of the lathering brush to his face, and that he had actually shaved himself. He informed him that his spasms were now getting much worse, that his thirst was immoderate, and upon the least application of moisture to his lips, he was instantly seized with an indescribable horror, that evidently appeared associated with a sense of suffocation. He observed that the breath of a by-stander, when too near him, or the least stream of air passing over his countenance, produced insupportable spasms; and

that he had suffered exquisite torture from one of the women incautiously laying a bit of carpet at his bed-side, which caused a concussion of the atmosphere against his face.

His countenance, his manner, his watchfulness, his anxiety, and solicitude, shewed the extent of his sufferings, and in a great degree deterred me from wishing him to perform any operation, where no advantage could accrue, but the gratification of mere curiosity. As he complained of great thirst, we proposed he should attempt to moisten his mouth with a tea-spoonful of water; to this proposition he most willingly acceded, and sat up in bed to accomplish the process; in handing the water to him, a few drops were inadvertently scattered on the bed, part of which fell upon one of his hands; this trifling incident produced a paroxysm of painful suffering; he snatched away his hand as if it had been struck with electric fluid, and quicker than thought was seized with spasms in the throat and chest, that excited a strong sensation of terror in the minds of all who beheld him. After recovering from this trivial but terrible accident, he resumed his usual tranquillity, and informed us he would endeavour to drink some water; the cup was handed to him, which he seemed to view with a sort of horrid repugnance, but with a resolution apparently resulting from a great effort, with a trembling hand he embraced it, and made several attempts to reach his mouth, but his resolution failed him. His countenance on this trying occasion too plainly portrayed his feelings; but with a calmness he apologized and begged pardon for his delay. He now became more steadily fixed in his posture, as if he was summoning up his whole resolution, and rapidly carried the cup to his lips, which instantaneously produced spasms in his throat and chest, to an alarming and frightful extent. In moving his hand over the bed, after recovering from his last paroxysm, he accidentally touched that part of the sheet where the water had been spilt; the moisture of which excited a strong impression, and produced a slight spasmodic attack, with an increase of momentary suffering and distress.

Mr. Overend, for his own satisfaction, called in the assistance of a Dr. Gounge, who recommended mercurial friction; but the smell of the ointment so much annoyed him that they thought proper to abandon it.

"At our succeeding visits," observes Mr. Overend, "we had some difficulty to separate ourselves from him; and, on every attempt to leave the house, with expressions of great anxiety and solicitude, he desired us to continue with, and protect him. We prevailed upon him to go to bed; begged of him to be tranquil and composed, that he might obtain a little sleep, which he promised to perform to the best of his ability. We saw him again after dinner, and found him seated in a chair without his coat and waistcoat, at a distance from, but opposite the window, with half an orange in his hand, which he frequently applied to his tongue, in a very hurried but very cautious manner, carefully avoiding his lips, and solicitous that no part of the juice should drop into his mouth, as either circumstance agitated him with convulsive horror. At one time, while in the act of touching the tongue with the orange he con

stantly held in his hand for a period of near thirty hours, which seemed to impart to him feelings of momentary comfort and satisfaction, he observed to me, with a wistful countenance—"This is poor consolation to an individual whose intolerable thirst would take a whole gallon to quench." His spasms were growing worse, and evidently more violent, with a morbidly increasing susceptibility of impression, so much so, that he suffered incredibly from any person moving across the room, except when performed cautiously and slow. His desire for fresh air was incessant; but he was frequently thrown into violent spasms, when assailed by a gentle current from the window. The dancing and undulating motion of the sun beams, against the wall and other surfaces in the room, perplexed him considerably, and never failed, when observed by him, to produce a paroxysm.

"The urgency of his symptoms had now a very obvious effect upon his breathing, which he managed with the most assiduous circumspection; his posture in his chair was erect; his respiration was a sort of half breathing, avoiding, by every voluntary effort, a full inspiration, as the common action of the respiring organs was attended with spasms and distress. Observing the way in which he moistened his tongue with the orange, one of his medical attendants suggested the plan of administering fluids through the medium of a flexible tube; he readily conceded to the proposition, and a tube was accordingly procured, one end of which he carefully introduced into his mouth, without touching his lips, while the other was immersed in a cup of warm milk, at a distance from him. Things being thus arranged, and composure recommended to him, he was desired cautiously and gently to suck the milk through the tube into his mouth, which he timidly and fearfully tried to perform; but whether from the action of the muscles, in attempting to embrace and suck the tube, or from the air rushing into the mouth in emptying it, I cannot take upon me to say; the effort was instantly associated with convulsions of a very formidable and frightful aspect. This was the last time I saw him attempt to take fluids.

"He was seldom or never without one or other of his medical attendants, and continued, without much variation, till past midnight, when he fell into the last and most distressing stage of the disease.

"Instead of the want of moisture in his mouth, a most abundant secretion of mucus and saliva took place, which he laboured to discharge with incessant vehemence, forming on the floor where he sat a pool, that covered a considerable surface. The upper part of his body was drawn and distorted in every possible direction, and twisted from side to side with incredible velocity, during which he constantly occupied himself in discharging from his mouth, with great impetuosity and perturbation, the saliva that annoyed him. With his hand he frequently wiped from his forehead the large drops of sweat his sufferings produced, the moisture of which continued to increase his distress, and which he dashed on the floor with unparalleled efforts, piteously groaning, and emphatically uttering the word "*horrid*." In this situation he continued till

half-past eight o'clock on Tuesday morning, when he quietly, and almost imperceptibly, fell into the arms of death, after a severe paroxysm, supported on one side by an acquaintance, and on the other side by our pupil, Mr. James Fox.

"He was perfectly sensible to the last moment of his existence, and at all times apologised to his attendants for occasionally pushing them from him, when involuntarily acted upon by the violence of his sufferings; and expressed, in his last moments, his obligations to those about him."

The unfortunate patient derived no advantage from the additional aid of Dr. Gouge. In a case of so acute a nature, that must terminate in a very short period, unless some means were employed capable of arresting its progress, what benefit was mercurial friction likely to produce? and if mercury could have been introduced into the system by friction, so as to affect the gums, was it not more likely to increase the irritation of the nervous system than allay it? The abstraction of blood was certainly proper; but why did not Mr. Overend follow up the practice recommended by Dr. Reid, of Dublin? Why not apply a blister over the spine, and indeed over the head and the abdomen? A disease which destroys life so rapidly as hydrophobia, should be vigorously attacked with active remedies—remedies that will act rapidly on the system. Had this treatment been adopted, which has been found to succeed in some cases, the physician and surgeon would have had the satisfaction of having acted on some rational principle; but we are told, that although Dr. Reid's treatise has been noticed in all the periodical medical works, and advertised in all the newspapers of this country, neither the physician nor the surgeon ever heard of it. Of all the cases of this formidable disease that we have met with or heard of, this was the most favourable for giving Dr. Reid's treatment a trial.

PRESCRIPTIONS.

For Indigestion, attended with Costiveness, by Dr. Babbington.

Take of the blue pill, extract of rhubarb, of each twenty-four grains. Mix and divide into sixteen pills.—Two to be taken every night.

Take of infusion of cascarilla, five ounces; carbonate of soda, one drachm; tincture of orange peel, six drachms: mix.—Three table-spoonsful to be taken twice a day, i. e. about two hours before dinner, and three hours before bed-time.

For Fluor Albus and Gleet.

Take of the saturated tincture of cubebs, one ounce; decoction of marshmallow root (*foreign*) eight ounces: mix.—Three table-spoonsful to be taken three times a day.

For Indigestion, attended with general Debility and edematous Swelling of the Legs.

Take of the saturated tincture of cubebs, one ounce; extract of rhatany, one drachm; barley water, six ounces: mix.—Three table spoonsful to be taken three times a day.

Take of extract of rhubarb, ditto of jalap, of each half a drachm; prepared calomel, ten grains; oil of cloves, six drops: mix, and divide into twenty-one pills.—Three to be taken twice a week in case of costiveness.

For chronic Asthma, attended with general Debility, and edematous Swelling of the Legs.

Take of solution of gum ammoniac, seven ounces; the saturated tincture of cubebs, one ounce: mix.—Three table-spoonsful to be taken three times a day.

MR. FAITHHORN and his PATIENT.—The long correspondence between these gentlemen, which appears in our fortieth number, was inserted by the particular request of an old subscriber. The first letter the patient received from Mr. Faithhorn affords ample evidence of the motives that induced him to publish a treatise on hepatic complaints. His declining to answer Mr. W.'s letter, without a fee of two pounds, one would have supposed was alone sufficient to have convinced him which of the two was to be benefitted by a further correspondence.

If a man, styling himself a surgeon, declined to answer the letter of a gentleman, without a fee greater than that the most experienced physician would demand or expect, what was the inference? Credit is due to Mr. Faithhorn, for having opened his eyes in the first instance; and for proceeding in the correspondence the patient can only blame himself. The correspondence (which many of our readers have thought tediously long) confirms our statement that the object of most medical men, in broaching new doctrines and publishing *practical* treatises, is to increase their own practice. Mr. Faithhorn, it must be allowed, exhibits a profound knowledge of the art of keeping up confidence, and promoting the fee trade. This art, it has been said by an eminent lecturer on pathology, is the principal qualification of a physician. Of it Mr. Faithhorn's letters afford a very pretty specimen—we were going to say, exposition.

In the patient's history of his disorders, giddiness, restlessness, and stupor, are the most prominent symptoms, and we should have supposed would have principally influenced a surgeon or an apothecary in the medical treatment.—Indeed, to us it appears that his general health suffered chiefly, if not entirely, from over-detention of the blood-vessels of the brain, to which elderly people are very subject from venous plethora, and had it been removed by ve-

nesection, we are of opinion all the other symptoms would have disappeared.

The benefit he derived from active purgative medicines confirms this supposition. The shooting pains he experienced in the region of the liver, stomach, and spleen, were evidently symptoms of inflammatory excitement of the peritoneal covering of those organs, (not of morbid derangement of the structure of the liver, as stated by Mr. Faithhorn,) and indicated the propriety of blistering. The pains in the one case are acute, and in the other, obtuse. To magnify symptoms, and to represent trifling affections as serious, may, in some cases, be proper to keep alive confidence; but to represent a pain in the groin, incipient rupture that required a truss, and the excoriation, as a complaint that might have advanced to something very serious, was, we think, carrying the art rather too far. The excoriation, which Mr. F. takes the credit of curing by exciting a fresh action in the part, it appears by a subsequent letter from the patient, to have soon disappeared after he left off the application, and that the "new action" seems to have kept up the "old one." With respect to Mr. F.'s remarks on different trusses, and the charge he made for a common one, we shall say nothing, as Mr. Oddy has signified his intention to reply to them. In Mr. W.'s letters we discover no symptom that, in our opinion, justified a regular exhibition of mercury. In inflammatory excitement of membranes, mercury, carried to an extent to affect the mouth, we have uniformly found injurious. After the patient had lost all his teeth by the use of mercury, the direction to live chiefly on light puddings, and to take little meat, was certainly very judicious. By Mr. Faithhorn it appears evident that all his sufferings were attributed to a disordered state of the liver; but upon what principle, or with what view he prescribed ipecacuan, with squill and the benzoic acid, when the pains in the hypogastric regions were extensive and acute, and when the stomach was in a very disordered state, we cannot conjecture. The effects of the medicine being an aggravation of his sufferings, Mr. Faithhorn very ingeniously intimates his suspicion that the medicines might not be good; he therefore proposed to get his prescriptions compounded in London. This, although he was urged to do it by the patient, he afterwards declined, in consequence of "the excoriation, which he hoped would be speedily removed:" a very cogent reason indeed!! The prescriptions are curious compounds. To prescribe the *carbonate* of soda with oxymel of squills, betrays an ignorance of chemistry.

The prescriptions are, however, on a par with his pathological remarks.—In this respect there is something like consistency: had they come from a pupil that had been with us only two years, we should certainly not have formed a favourable opinion of the figure he would make in the medical world. The correspondence evidently proves that although Mr. Faithhorn has made a book on complaints of the liver, in which he professes to divulge a successful mode of treatment, that his pretended superior knowledge does not sur-

pass that of any apothecary in this kingdom—and further the deponent saith not.

DEAFNESS.—SIRS,—In your 39th number, a letter appears from Mr. Wright, an aurist, calling upon me to specify the cases of deafness, to which my remedy is applicable. Having specified the composition, I conceive it was more his duty, as an aurist, than mine, to point out the species of deafness in which it was likely to prove beneficial, and those in which it was capable of doing mischief. It is very plausible, and, no doubt, very politic for an aurist to talk of different species of deafness; but to assert that a remedy so simple as a solution of bay salt is capable of doing mischief in any case of deafness, is, in my humble opinion, ridiculous. The remedy I recommend, simple as it is, I have found wonderfully beneficial in many cases of deafness, which I attribute to its chemical action on the nerves of the membrana tympani, &c. and in promoting a secretion of wax. It is therefore applicable to all cases of deafness, arising from relaxation of the membrana tympani, or other causes, seated in the external ear. By invigorating the branches of nerves which spread over the membrana tympani, and the internal surface of the external ear, it may even prove highly beneficial, when the cause is seated in the internal cavity. That it is capable of doing mischief, even where the membrana tympani is ulcerated, I deny. Of this I am satisfied, that if the case is curable it will succeed, and I defy Mr. Wright to cure the case in which it has failed—I speak of its *local* effects. If the constitution be impaired, or in fault, *constitutional* treatment will be necessary. This, I conceive, is the province of the physician. Now as I have, without reserve, stated the cases to which it is applicable, I hope Mr. Wright will, with equal candour, specify the species of deafness in which it may prove injurious.

I am, Sirs, your obedient Servant,

London, Feb. 2d, 1819.

CHEMIOUS.

BOTTLED PORTER.—SIRS,—The plan you have adopted of subjoining practical or explanatory remarks to the communications you insert in your work, gives it a most decided superiority over all other publications of the kind, and must render it particularly useful to junior practitioners and pupils. I was led to these observations by a report which I have read in the Medical Repository, from a Mr. Whitmore of Clerkenwell, of the extraordinary restorative effects of bottled porter in a case of typhus fever. It appears, that after administering an active aperient medicine, an antimonial sudorific and the saline mixture, blistering the skin over the spine, and keeping the lower extremities warm, by means of a poultice; after the expiration of seven days, the patient was in an alarming state of debility. In this situation Mr. Whitmore determined to have recourse to bottled porter, which seems to have had a magic influence; for the patient, after taking the first draught, revived and became sensible, and in the course of the evening was evidently in a rapid state of convalescence. Mr. Whitmore therefore concludes, that bottled porter is a sovereign remedy for typhus fever!! Had this remedy been employed in the first

instance, would the result have been the same, or rather would not the febrile symptoms have been aggravated by it? When it was employed, the morbid excitement of the system had been reduced by medicine, and the disease had nearly run its course. In detailing the effects of medicine, it is of great importance to notice the stage of the disease, and the state of the system.

Mr. Whitmore's case reminds me of a farrier in the neighbourhood of York, who was very studious in collecting medical facts. A young woman in his parish, in the last stage of typhus, being given over by her medical attendant, her friends requested the farrier to see her. The farrier on his first visit, gave his opinion in positive terms, that he would restore her to health. Her parents consenting to place her entirely under his care, he sent her a bottle of brandy, with direction to take half a glass every hour. The brandy produced similar effects to the bottled porter. She revived, and in a few hours became sensible. Her convalescence under this stimulating treatment was so rapid, that she was perfectly restored to health in a fortnight. The farrier, in consequence of this success, made a memorandum in his book of medical facts, "*Brandy good for fevers.*" This case did him so much credit, that he was shortly afterwards requested to visit a young man on the first attack of the same fever. He commenced with brandy; which, instead of reviving the patient, aggravated the fever to that degree as to produce inflammation of the brain and lungs, which terminated life in a few days. From this unfortunate result, he made a memorandum, "*Brandy good for fevers, but not always.*" From these medical facts a most important lesson may be drawn. They speak volumes, and I hope Mr. Whitmore will profit by them.

I am, Sir, Your constant Reader,

JOHN ROBSON.

Baker Street.

HEAD-ACHE.—There is a species of head-ache by no means uncommon in this country, which seems to have escaped the attention of medical writers.—It commences with great dimness of sight, which after a few minutes is succeeded by an obtuse kind of sensation throughout the brain, with an incapacity to exercise the intellectual functions. The extremities and the scalp become cold, the pulse feeble, and the pupils of the eyes much dilated. It is not attended with any increased determination of blood to the brain or of any disorder of the stomach. It appears that the electrical or galvanic powers of the brain are nearly suspended, and that the energising nervous fluid is not distributed over the body in sufficient quantity. Sometimes vomiting comes on which often terminates the paroxysm, the circulation becoming more active and the extremities of a proper warmth. The vomiting seems to be an effort of nature to rouse the energy of the brain so as to enable it to disperse the accumulated nervous fluid; for the ejected matter from the stomach does not shew that that organ was in fault. Warm applications to the extremities, especially such as possess a stimulating power independent of heat, as a mustard poultice, is in general beneficial by occasioning a determination of nervous fluid to them,

and thereby unloading the brain of its accumulation. Sneezing, excited by the compound asarabacca powder, is uniformly beneficial by rousing the action of the brain. Stimulants taken into the stomach are also serviceable on the same principle as stimulants to the extremities. As an internal stimulant, the saturated tincture of cubeba has been found the most successful. Galvanism is also a very efficacious auxiliary. When the complaint abates, the patient experiences a curious vibrating or prickling sensation along the principal nerves, and many have observed that they felt as if something was running from the head to the feet.

PULMONARY CONSUMPTION.—A Mr. Kenyon informs us, that he has been cured of an affection of the lungs which was pronounced to be pulmonary consumption, by inhaling the hydro-carbonate gas, under the direction of Mr. Payne. Before he commenced the use of this remedy, the cough, which was incessant, was attended with acute pains in the chest, and a copious expectoration of a matter of a purulent appearance, sometimes streaked with blood. His general health had given way very considerably, being much emaciated, and greatly debilitated. He was subject to colligative perspirations, and his pulse was frequently accelerated to 140. His friends considered him to be in the last stage of consumption of the lungs. Mr. Kenyon concludes his letter with the following observation:—When I reflect on the wretched state of my health at the time I commenced the use of the hydro-carbonate gas, and the wonderful change the remedy produced in so short a period, I am totally at a loss for terms sufficiently expressive of the high opinion I entertain of the restorative powers in affections of the lungs, and of the gratitude I feel for the cure it has effected on me." The gas powerfully allays inflammatory excitement of the membrane lining the windpipe and its ramifications, and therefore is, no doubt, a valuable auxiliary to constitutional and other remedies in the incipient or even an advanced stage of pulmonary consumption.

MEDICAL MONOPOLY.—A respectable gentleman lately returned from Brighton, informs us that a physician, four surgeons, and a chemist, have combined in that town to monopolise the practice of medicine, and to entrap the invalids that resort there for the recovery of health. They are bound by a *Bond* to recommend each other. The physician is extolled by the surgeons and the chemist as a most able practitioner. The patient who consults him goes to the fountain head, and all that art can accomplish will be done for him, is the general cry of the other partners!! The surgeons of course are recommended by the physician and the chemist in similar terms. The drugs of the chemist are recommended by the physician and surgeon as the best that can be obtained; and as to his attention to the compounding department, it never was equalled: this conscientious chemist, who is as much entitled to the denomination as to that of a conjuror, is bound to charge mixtures, pills, &c. at a certain high *Price*. On analysing this curious combination, our friend discovered, that one was a *Taylor*, another a *Brewer* or near to it; one, a native of Newnham, had been brought up to ani-

mal medicine!! They *all* profess to be honourable men, and to feel for the situation of their patients: they calculate on making fifty pounds of a patient; and this, on an average, they generally by one means and another succeed in doing. At certain boarding houses, the proprietors recommend the *Physician* to be consulted before recourse be had to bathing; "Oh," emphatically observed Mrs. W. to our friend, "you surely would not be so mad as to go into the sea without consulting Dr. P.—Besides, the warm sea-water bath should be taken to prepare the system for sea-bathing." The gentleman being a medical man, replied, "I am satisfied that much mischief is done by previous warm-bathing, and that to receive the full advantage of sea-bathing, a person should commence with it: all the rest is leather and prunella." Although our friend was a medical man, he was fleeced out of thirty pounds by the plausible humane gentlemen, of which the honourable combination is composed!! In artifice, perserverance, and hunting out patients, as well as impudence, they excel the medical combinations of Bath. Let visitors, therefore, to this fashionable retreat beware of medical combinations.

PYROLIGNOUS ACID.—The account we have given of this acid in preserving animal food, has induced some chemists on the continent to give it a trial: one gentleman immersed the whole carcass of a sheep in it, which on examination some months afterwards he found perfectly sound and free from any appearance of putrefaction; others have found meat that had been impregnated with it to keep good after it was dried, without the aid of salt. The leg of mutton on which we tried it twelve months ago, although it was so far gone (as the butcher expressed himself) as not to be saleable, is now perfectly sweet, and from its appearance will keep so many years.

POISONING FROM ARSENIC.—In a foreign journal there is an official report of the examination of the body of a woman, who was supposed to have died from poison. The presence of arsenic, in a state of solution, was detected in the contents of the stomach and intestines, but from these contents it could not be obtained in the solid form. In order, if possible, to procure this decisive proof, the œsophagus, stomach, and intestines (on the inner surface of which no trace of any thing in the form of a powder could be perceived with the microscope) were boiled in a solution of caustic potass; this was afterwards strained, the potass saturated with nitric acid, and lime water added to it, when a precipitate which, when dried, weighed 40 grains, was obtained. From this precipitate, after adding boracic acid and charcoal, three grains of solid arsenic were obtained by sublimation.

PHOSPHATE OF IRON.—Dr. Bostock has lately claimed the first discovery of this article in Britain. It was long ago collected in great abundance, on making the excavations for the West India Docks, from the places of the roots of plants that had grown in the peat. In Mr. Sowerby's Cabinet there are many specimens of it. It has also been found on the commons of Woolwich and Plumstead.

BURNS.—The following observations and reflections relative to the treatment of burns, although chiefly from the pen of a lady, will be found to possess much merit both by our medical and non-medical readers.—“*To Doctor Samuel Mitchel, of New York.*—The only apology I judge necessary for the freedom of this address is, that I believe I am writing to a gentleman, a physician, a philosopher, and philanthropist. I therefore take the liberty of stating to thee a discovery which I accidentally made about thirteen years ago, in which natural philosophy had little or no agency, (whatever degree of it I might flatter myself with having previously acquired,) but by enabling me to trace back to the cause the unexpected and surprising effect.

“I had burnt the back of my thumb, near the hand, a space perhaps less than the size of a dollar, which was nevertheless sufficient ‘to tie down my sore attention’ to its smarting for two or three hours, while busily engaged in domestic avocations. At length, merely because I knew not what to do with it, I applied a plaster, compounded of Burgundy pitch, bees-wax, and a little oil; which I had long kept in the house as a convenient application for slight wounds, and which I shall take the liberty hereafter more particularly to describe. I then went on with my work, and did not think of my burn again till about five hours after, when the singular circumstance of such complete relief excited an immediate investigation of the cause; which, as it appeared to me, was, first, the component parts of the natural covering, the skin, were so far decomposed or weakened by the action of fire as to render them incapable of bearing the application of oxygen to that part, without suffering a continued tendency to further dissolution, that the external application of a complete non-conductor gave the part immediate rest, and afforded nature an opportunity to repair the breach. By thus excluding the brisk action of oxygen, every tendency to inflammation from without was also fully excluded.

“In consequence of the conviction resulting from this train of reasoning, I have never since made any other application to a burn or scald; and, by a continued series of invariably successful trials, I am so fully confirmed in the rationality of the theory, that I now feel it an incumbent duty I owe to suffering humanity, the infant part of it especially, to use every effort in my power to give it publicity. And, though I flatter myself it will not be necessary to corroborate it by facts in order to obtain Dr. Mitchel’s assent to the justness of my theory, yet it may be to some others, to whom thou mayest have the goodness to communicate it, from the same benevolent and compassionate motives which, I trust, have induced me to make this candid statement. I shall, therefore, now select three of the most prominent cases out of the many to which I have been witness, or which have been substantiated to me by what I consider unquestionable authority.

“The first was the case of a young woman in our family, eight or nine years ago, who scalded her arm with a column of steam, which raised an entire blister on about one-third of its surface. I applied the plaster, and bound it up close: it gave her immediate and com-

plete relief from any further suffering. She let it remain four or five days without opening, and pursued her work as usual. In little more than a week it was completely healed, and no inflammation appeared in it.

"The second case was that of a child of about a year old, in the summer of 1817, who was scalded with salt-meat broth on the breast and nearly the whole of the right-arm. The father, whose name is Nichols, came nearly six miles to me for directions; having previously heard something about my mode of treating burns and scalds. This was the afternoon of the first day [Sunday;] and, before the week was out, he informed my late lamented brother-in-law, Richard Robotham, that, on the application of the plaster, the child went quietly to sleep, after suffering extremely during four or five hours; had a good night's rest; that the parts were nearly all healed; and the child had, through the whole process, been entirely easy and free from fever.

"The third is a recent instance of its good effects in the case of a child of David Rogers in this town, about four years old, who was scalded on the 24th ult. We judged about one half the surface of the right leg was blistered; and, in the bend of the ankle, where the stocking was wrinkled, and held the heat longer, the flesh was destroyed under the skin, apparently more than the skin's thickness. The leg was immediately wrapped close in cotton, until the salve could be made and a plaster applied; which could not take less than three quarters of an hour, during which time the child's suffering was extreme. In less than ten minutes after the plaster was on, she was perfectly easy, and in less than ten more was asleep, and has never since made the least complaint of smarting pain or soreness. Next morning the blisters were carefully pierced, on the under side, with a large needle, through the plaster and salve, when the water copiously flowed; after which the plaster was drawn a little closer and bandaged snug, but was not taken off till the third day, and then with great care not to break the skin, only with a large needle to let out the water, which had again accumulated. The leg was then, without washing, again enclosed in the plaster, after adding a little more salve where it appeared to be necessary. I attended it every day, merely for the sake of critically marking its progress; for the child had in its maternal grandmother one of the best of nurses, in whose skill and attention I placed the most entire confidence. About the fifth day there were plain indications of healing, by great part of the space ceasing to discharge. On the ninth the new skin was formed evidently over the whole. On the tenth the plaster was removed entirely, and the leg only wrapt in a cloth wetted with spirit, and a bandage applied, merely to shield the young skin from the air, and prevent the child's taking cold after having the limb so much wrapt up. This day, the eleventh from the accident, the leg appears wholly free from redness, or even tetter, so common on the healing of burns which have suffered in their progress by inflammation to any considerable degree; and it has never been swelled at all.

"I now respectfully request thee to inform me on the following

points :—first, to what extent may a non-conductor be closely applied to the superficies of the human body, and yet leave sufficient space for the necessary oxygenation of the blood, through that source, to preserve it in a healthy state?—also whether, and in what degree, oxygen can be artificially increased through the lungs, with safety to that important organ?

“ With regard to the composition, I would just observe, that, though the pitch and wax are, as thou knowest, equally non-conductors, yet the pitch alone, even when softened with oil, is more adhesive than is necessary; the wax not enough so. I, therefore, allow one quarter or a little more wax, with a little lard, fresh butter, or oil, to soften the composition sufficiently, but not so as to cause it to melt away with the warmth of the flesh and admit the air, which would destroy its effect as a non-conductor. I then spread it with a hot knife on old nankeen, or any other close limber cloth: leather is not so good, as, on any moisture getting to it, when it afterwards becomes dry, it is apt to grow hard. If the skin is rubbed off in any part, I first cover the part with a little soft linen lint, and then apply the plaster close, and bandage it carefully to secure it from slipping. I trust thy goodness will readily pardon my thus attempting to light a candle at noon-day; and, with requesting a line from thee when leisure from more important avocations permits, I subscribe, with high consideration and esteem, thy assured friend,
HANNAH BARNARD.

“ *Hudson; Oct. 6, 1818.*

To this letter Dr. Mitchel returned following the answer:—

“ *MADAM,*—On looking over my letters requiring answers this morning, I find yours to be one. I had very often heard of the writer as a person of extensive observation and enlarged mind: I now behold her as a physician and a philanthropist.

“ Pain is so great an evil, that I wish by every rational means to lessen its dominion. The facts stated in your communication are very interesting, and present the accidents of burns and scalds in a new aspect to me. Ice, cotton, spirit of turpentine, and various others remedies, were familiar to me; and, although I knew the employment of *cerate*, or a composition of bees-wax and olive-oil, for a dressing for wounds or sores, I did not know that it could assuage the torment consequent upon accidents by fire.

“ These casualties are so frequent and distressing, that it is important that an efficacious and ready method of treating them should be known to the head of every family, as also to every medical practitioner.

“ The theory of the manner in which the plaster acts is ingenious, and, I will add, so probable, that I am not acquainted with a better. It is certain that the oxygen of the atmosphere is in contact with the whole surface of our bodies: it penetrates the windpipe and lobes of the lungs; it passes into the alimentary canal; and in all these situations it has more than a mere mechanical operation. The other effect to which I allude is chemical:—when the human body, or any part of it, or any animated substance, is heated to such a temperature as to attract oxygen, a combustion, more or less rapid

takes place: they call it inflammation; and, in this view of the subject, the term is very appropriate. If it be intended to represent the further accumulation and action of the caloric, the oxygenous part of the atmosphere must be kept away. A close application of an ointment or cerate does this: the part is protected from the assault of oxygen and caloric, and the consequent pain and anguish cease.

"The analogy with inanimate matter is very strict: a piece of wood, when highly charged with caloric, may be kept from actual burning or decomposition by being separated from the oxygen of the air. In that case the fire is smothered, or does not kindle.

"Why may not the interpretation apply to both cases? It has as much nice similitude as most of the theories we possess.

"Permit me to conclude by an assurance of my great regard and esteem.

"SAM'L. L. MITCHELL.

"To Mrs. Hannah Barnard.

COW POX.—A Doctor Pew of Sherbourne, in a long article on the preventive powers of cow-pox and of inoculated small pox against *natural* small pox, which the Editor of the Physical Journal, in compassion to his age, we presume, has inserted in the last number of that work, positively declares, that notwithstanding all the cases of supposed small-pox after cow-pox, which have been published by Dr. Monro and others, "his mind continues to be made up as to the complete preventive powers of cow-pox, and that he has not a shadow of a doubt but the cases of Doctor Monro will speedily follow all the other *supposed* cases of small-pox after vaccination to the tomb of all the capulets!" A conversation the learned doctor lately had with an *old woman* in Sherbourne, he says, has fully satisfied his mind, that the supposed cases of small-pox after cow-pox were in reality chicken-pox; and that they were wilfully represented to be small-pox by a few straggling individuals, "who might be called the wild men of the woods!" If the doctor, during his practice, has paid the same attention to the characters of other diseases as he has to small-pox and chicken-pox, he must be a *rara avis* in the medical world. The Editors of the Medical Journal must be hard pushed for matter to fill up their numbers to admit such ridiculous nonsense.

The last report of the London Vaccine Institution is greatly in favour of the preventive influence of cow-pox, against small-pox contagion.—They admit that something like failures have occurred, but that many of the cases of supposed small-pox were chicken-pox.—The bills of mortality unquestionably afford strong evidence of the favourable effects of vaccination; for the most violent enemies to the practice must admit, that since its introduction, the mortality by small-pox has been greatly diminished.—We have lately met with a few cases of eruptive fever similar to that described by Dr. Bent, under the name of Varioloid Disease.—The eruption very much resembled small-pox; it continued full for nine days, but it did not terminate, like small-pox, in suppuration.—The skin in every instance continued to exhibit the same appearance for the space of three weeks, which follows measles.—It was certainly not

small-pox modified by cow-pox, for in one case the patient, a female aged 32, had never received either the cow or small-pox.—Our last reports from Paris and Rouen of the progress of vaccination are highly in its favour.—The cases of failure, it is said, were, on investigation, satisfactorily ascertained to be chicken-pox.—A correspondent in Gloucestershire informs us, that Dr. Jenner intends shortly to make some further communication relative to cow-pox and the causes of its failure.—We sincerely hope that it will turn out, as our friend intimates, that the failures are solely attributable to the ignorance or inattention of vaccinators.

EXCESSIVE ESCAPE of BLOOD after EXTRACTION of a TOOTH.—The remarks we made in our eleventh number on a case of obstinate bleeding after the extraction of a tooth, which occurred in St. George's Hospital, has induced Mr. Brodie to publish the particulars in the first part of the eighth volume of the *Medico-Chirurgical transactions*—Although the patient died under the care of Mr. Brodie in the hospital, the communication was made to the society by Mr. Blagden, who has nothing to do with the hospital.—We shall give Mr. Blagden's or Mr. Brodie's narrative in his own words:—

“Joseph Lancton, while a boy, had a tooth extracted, in consequence of which an alarming hæmorrhage took place from the alveolus. The hæmorrhage continued twenty-one days and then ceased. It was observed afterwards, that whenever he cut himself accidentally, or received any other slight wound, hæmorrhage took place to a greater extent than in ordinary persons, and that it was more difficult to stop. In the summer of 1815, being then twenty-six years of age, he received a slight wound on the forehead. A profuse hæmorrhage took place from a wounded artery. Pressure and the ordinary styptics were employed for the purpose of suppressing it, but the bleeding constantly recurred. Mr. Gatcombe, who took charge of the case, applied a ligature round each of the divided ends of the bleeding vessel, but it gave way behind the ligatures and the bleeding returned. Mr. Gatcombe observed the artery to be very thin in its coats, like a vein rather than an artery. The hæmorrhage was eventually stopped by the application of the kali purum, which produced an extensive slough of the soft parts, and even caused an exfoliation of a small portion of bone. In the spring of 1816 he suffered much from a caries of the second molaris of the upper jaw on the left side. Fearing that the extraction of it would occasion an hæmorrhage, such as had occurred formerly, he for a considerable time delayed having the tooth removed. At length, as he continued to suffer, he determined to submit to the operation, and the tooth was therefore extracted on the 30th of June. The jaw sustained no particular injury by the operation, but there was an abscess at the root of the tooth, which either was in, or communicated with, the maxillary sinus. A profuse hæmorrhage immediately took place from the alveolus. On the evening of the 1st July, as the bleeding still continued, I was desired to see him, and immediately applied the lunar caustic to the bottom of the alveolus, but without effect. I then carefully stopped the socket with sponge

soaked in a solution of blue vitriol, and directed that the face should be kept moist with some cold application. The bleeding now ceased but returned in a few hours. On the following morning the bleeding was still profuse, and continued so through the whole day, although the socket was again plugged with the greatest care and attention. On the morning of the 4th of July, Mr. Brodie was consulted, and applied the cautery to the alveolus, which immediately restrained the hæmorrhage, and the bleeding did not recur for six hours, but in the evening it returned as violent as before. I again stopped the alveolus but without success; the cautery was repeated twice, but the bleeding continued notwithstanding. In applying the cautery a large quantity of matter escaped apparently from the maxillary sinus. On the following morning, July 5th, the bleeding still continued; the patient had never fainted, but he became now very low and depressed; his situation altogether was very alarming, and it became necessary to make some further attempt to restrain the flow of blood. *The bleeding vessel was evidently out of the reach of surgery.* The nearest and the only vessel to which it was possible to apply a ligature, was the trunk of the carotid; and as a ligature on this artery does not seem to be attended with any particular risk, and as the risk of allowing the hæmorrhage to continue was very great, it was determined that the carotid should be tied. Mr. Brodie performed the operation about ten A. M. As the ligature of the carotid produces a cure not only of the common aneurism, but of the aneurism from anastomosis, which is a disease of the smaller arteries, it was fully expected that it would stop the bleeding in this instance; but in this expectation we were disappointed. The hæmorrhage still continued. The wound made in the operation bled very little at first, but in the course of a few minutes after the operation it began to bleed profusely. No single vessel could be observed bleeding, but there was a general oozing from its surface. Ice was applied to the wound, and while this was continued the bleeding from it was suppressed, but it returned immediately on the ice being removed. Ice was also applied to the left side of the face, and there was reason to believe that it stopped the bleeding for a few hours; however the hæmorrhage afterwards returned, and the patient died at five A. M. on the Sunday morning July 7th, a week from the time of the removal of the tooth.

“After death the trunk of the carotid was examined. It was found to be of its natural texture, except that there were several opaque, white depositions on the outer surface of its inner coat, such as precede ossification. The temporal and some other branches of the external carotid were also examined; their coats appeared to be thinner than usual, and nearly transparent.”

In this detail the writer has certainly displayed much ingenuity. It however falls very short of satisfying our minds of the necessity of having had recourse to so formidable an operation as that of applying a ligature to the trunk of the carotid artery—an operation, which in our opinion, was more likely to terminate in death, than the bleeding from the socket of a tooth. With respect to the propriety of forcing a piece of lunar caustic into the socket, we shall only observe that it

was a practice that we should not have adopted. "In performing our duty as Surgeons," observes Mr. Astley Cooper, "our feelings should direct us: the case we should consider as our own; and we should ask ourselves, whether, placed under similar circumstances, we should choose to submit to the pain and danger we are about to inflict." This remark, however absurd it may appear to experimentalists or cutting philosophers, carries with it true wisdom—It is on the principle of "doing as we would be done by," that every conscientious, and indeed *scientific* surgeon would act. The absence of such a feeling does indeed, as Mr. Young observes, debase the profession to the level of a mercenary traffic in human calamity. Finding that our remarks on this extraordinary case were deemed illiberal by a Lecturer on Surgery in London, we put the following question to Mr. Abernethy:—"Can a discharge of blood from the jaw, after the extraction of a tooth, occur to an extent that may justify an application of a ligature to the trunk of the carotid artery?" To this question Mr. Abernethy replied, "that he did not conceive that a case of hæmorrhage could occur from such a source as to render such a measure necessary, the discharge of blood not being likely to advance so far as to destroy life."—We put the question to Mr. Abernethy for our own information, without making the slightest allusion to Mr. Brodie's, or any other case.

PROSECUTION OF A REGULAR SURGEON.—An action was lately brought, by a Mr. Neale, against Mr. Pettigrew, a surgeon, aged seventy-five years, to recover a compensation for the loss of the use of his right arm, in consequence of a want of skill. The cause was tried before the Chief Justice, at Guildhall.

Mr. Scarlett stated the circumstances of the case. The plaintiff was a respectable artisan, and had been employed as engineer and brass-founder, in a large manufactory in the city, and by his industry was enabled to earn about four guineas a week. On Sunday, the 11th of July last, he was returning home about twelve o'clock at night, in a gig with a friend, and by some accident the vehicle was upset on Blackfriars-bridge; in consequence of which the plaintiff's right shoulder was dislocated. He was carried, in great pain, to the house of his friend, who resided in Fleet-street. Surgical assistance was immediately sent for, but the messenger having gone to two or three other surgeons, none of whom could be found at home, he went to the house of Mr. Pettigrew, who then kept a surgeon and apothecary's shop in Fleet-street, at the corner of Shoe-lane, and on inquiring for him, the answer was, that he was ill in bed, but his assistant undertook to attend the patient. He was immediately conducted to the plaintiff, who was then lying in the greatest agony, and attempted to reduce the dislocation; but appearing to bungle at the operation, he was asked whether he had ever set a dislocation before, and he answered, *fifty* times before. After pulling and dragging the arm for about an hour and three quarters, during which time the plaintiff was under the most excruciating tortures, he said the dislocation was reduced, he bandaged the shoulder, and then went away for the night. The plaintiff having passed a dreadful night, the next day he was worse, and on the

third day the defendant himself paid him a visit, and after looking at the shoulder, appeared quite satisfied that all was right; assured his patient that he would be well enough in ten days to go out, and in three months would recover the perfect use of his arm. He continued to use the defendant's prescriptions for about seven weeks, when finding himself no better, he consulted Mr. Gilham, a surgeon in Black-friars-road, who, on looking at the shoulder, immediately discovered that it had never been set, that all the inflammation had subsided, and that the end of the bone had formed a new bed for itself in the muscles, *and had become fixed by the osseous matter which surrounded it.* In a case so extraordinary, Mr. Gilham did not like to act upon *his own* judgment, and feeling for the reputation of Mr. Pettigrew, but still more regarding the life of the plaintiff, he determined to consult Mr. Cline; and upon considering the case, with another eminent surgeon, it was determined to try the experiment of the pulley, to try, if possible, to reduce the dislocation; but after the plaintiff was again subjected to the most excruciating pain, the operation wholly failed. Since then the plaintiff's arm had withered, and he had now only the use of the elbow-joint, in underhand motions. The plaintiff was a married man, with 3 children, who were wholly dependent upon his industry for support. In consequence of this misfortune he was thrown out of employment, and was reduced almost to beggary, from having been able to live with comfort and decency. Under these circumstances he appealed to the jury for such damages as his pitiable case seemed to demand, in consequence of the gross ignorance and negligence of the defendant. No money that the jury could give would be an adequate recompence for the loss of a right arm; but the case of the plaintiff was still more deplorable when it was considered, that through the defendant's ignorance he was deprived of the power of maintaining his family. Since this unfortunate occurrence, the defendant had retired from business, and had sold his practice for 600*l*. It should seem, therefore, that he was in a condition to pay large damages; and if the evidence made out the case so stated, he was persuaded that the jury would feel great pleasure in giving such damages as would operate as a wholesome example, at least to ignorant practitioners, and afford some compensation for the plaintiff's grievous injuries.

Mr. Vandenburg, the plaintiff's friend, who was with him at the time of the accident, proved the circumstances which came under his knowledge. Mr. Gilham, the surgeon of Blackfriar's-road, also confirmed Mr. Scarlett's statement, as to that part of the case which related to the subsequent treatment of the plaintiff. The defendant was a very old man. Mr. Cline gave evidence to the same effect. On his cross examination, he said it was possible, in the case of a lusty patient, and where there was a great deal of inflammation, for a skilful surgeon not to be able to ascertain immediately whether a dislocation of the shoulder was reduced; but with accurate observation, even in such a case, it was easy to ascertain whether the bone was in its proper place. Here, however, the observation could not apply, because the plaintiff was a thin

spare man, and it was impossible for any surgeon of competent skill in his profession to be mistaken. He was of opinion that the plaintiff's dislocation had never been reduced. The plaintiff had completely lost the use of his arm for all purposes wherever it was necessary to raise the hand above the chest; he might use it in underhand motions. The foreman in the house in which the plaintiff had been employed stated, that the plaintiff was a most skilful and scientific workman, and could earn four guineas a week. He had been seventeen years in the house, and his employers had never been able to find a sufficient substitute in his branch of the manufacture. He had been an industrious and respectable man, and, in the opinion of witness, would never be able to resume his employment.

Mr. GUNNEY addressed the jury in mitigation of damages, and urged, that the defendant was a very old man, and was not in circumstances to pay large damages, for there was no proof that he had sold his business for 600*l*. The misfortune which happened to the plaintiff was certainly much to be deplored; but as it was an injury not arising from any malice or intention on the part of the defendant, the jury ought not to give any damages which would reduce him to beggary in the evening of life.

The Chief-Justice summed up the case with strict impartiality; and the jury, after considering their verdict for about half an hour, found for the plaintiff—Damages 800*l*.

In the evidence of Mr. Gilham, as quoted by Mr. Scarlett, there is certainly something new.—It is the first time we have heard of the end of a dislocated bone being fixed by osseous matter.—After such assertion, we think Mr. Gilham acted very wisely in not trusting to his own judgment. From fractured extremities of a bone, an exudation takes place, which may be termed osseous matter; but from the surface of a bone where the periosteum or the capsular ligament, covering the extremity of the bone, is entire, which is the case in simple dislocation, no such secretion takes place. We have met with cases of dislocations of the shoulder-joint, apparently as simple as the one for which Mr. Pettigrew was prosecuted, which exceedingly puzzled some Hospital surgeons in London, and which terminated as disastrously. This prosecution, we hope, will induce surgeons not to place too much confidence in their pupils, and especially those who hold appointments to Hospitals. When we consider the advanced age of the surgeon, his not having interfered with the case in consequence of the assurance of his assistant that it was reduced, and the impossibility of ascertaining the nature of the accident, from the adhesions that had taken place at the time Mr. Cline and the other *experienced* surgeons attended, the verdict appears to us to be severe.—From the position of the arm, Mr. Pettigrew might have known, without taking off the plaster and bandages, that the dislocation was not reduced.

AN ACTION by a QUACK for REMUNERATION for ATTENDANCE.—During the last term a Mr. Hube, who pretends to cure cancerous ulcers, proceeded against a Mr. Phelps, to recover the sum of seventeen pounds and fourpence for medicines and attendance on his wife.

Mr. Gurney stated the case to the jury. He said that the plaintiff was not a regular practitioner in this country, but he was in possession of a most valuable receipt for curing that dreadful distemper the cancer. In March, 1818, he was employed by the defendant to attend his wife, and she had acknowledged that his medicines were very efficacious. The charge, *by agreement*, was 8s. for every visit, and he was to be paid for the medicines also.

Caroline Hube, the daughter of the plaintiff, about 20 years old, deposed, that her father attended Mrs. Phelps, who had a cancer in her breast. There was no wound, but a large swelling. He attended her eighteen times, and furnished a lotion, which was charged at the rate of 2l. 10s. per gallon, and an inward medicine, which he sold at 15s. a pound.

On cross-examination by Mr. Scarlett, she was asked whether she assisted her father? She replied in the affirmative: Her father was a German; he had lived at Manchester: he did not advertise as an eminent practitioner; his patients, *out of gratitude*, published his cures in the papers, and recommended the use of his medicines!! It was principally an inward medicine which he administered for the cure of cancer: it was very efficacious, and was called "Sovereign Medicine." Mrs. Phelps certainly improved under the advice of her father. Her father had been in England about thirteen years. He had never tried his remedies in Scotland. He had not been at either of the Universities; he learned his practice abroad, but she could not say whether he had taken his doctor's degree abroad.

Mr. Scarlett here submitted, that the plaintiff was not a regular physician, but a quack doctor, and, by law, quack doctors had no right whatever to practise. The plaintiff styled himself doctor, and his *grateful* friends, as the witness called them, recommended him to the public by that title. The greater part of his demand was for medicines furnished; but no person could vend medicines, by law, without a licence from the company of Apothecaries. In the reign of Henry VIII. when the practice of physic was mostly engrossed by illiterate monks and empyrics, the celebrated Linacre, in order to redress that grievance, procured letters patent from the King, which were confirmed by Parliament, to establish a corporate society of physicians in this city; by virtue of which authority, the college, as a corporation, now enjoys the privilege of admitting all persons whatever to the practice of physic, as well as that of supervising all prescriptions. And it is expressly declared, that no one shall be admitted to exercise physic in any of the dioceses in England, out of London, till such time that he be examined by the president and three of the elects, and have letters testimonial from them, unless he be a graduate in either University, who, as such, by his very degree has a right to practise all over England, except within seven miles of London, without being obliged to take any licence from the Bishop. By the 14th and 15th Henry VIII. c. 5. s. 2, further provisions were made on this subject; but by the 34th and 35th Henry VIII. c. 8, the legislature allowed persons, being the King's subjects, to practise in external applications, but not to administer internal medicines, except in three cases, namely, stone, stran-

guary, and ague. Then came the act of the 55th of his present Majesty, entitled "An act for the better regulating the practice of apothecaries throughout England and Wales;" by which it was enacted, that from and after the 1st day of August, 1815, it should not be lawful for any person or persons (except persons already in practice as such) to practise as an apothecary in any part of England or Wales, unless he or they should have been examined by the court of examiners, directed to be appointed by the said act, and should have received a certificate of his or their being duly qualified to practise as such apothecary as aforesaid, in the manner by the said act directed; and by the said act it was further enacted, that if any person (except such as were then actually practising as such) should, after the said 1st day of August, 1815, act or practise as an apothecary in any part of England or Wales, without having obtained such certificate as aforesaid, every person so offending should, for every such offence, forfeit and pay the sum of 10*l*.

The Chief Justice examined the several statutes, and after some conversation with the counsel on both sides, delivered his opinion, that although the plaintiff could not practise either as a physician or an apothecary, yet that he might, under the words of the 34th and 35th. of Henry VIII., administer external applications. His lordship said, that the promulgation of the act of the 55th of the King had done infinite good to society.

Mr. Scarlett then addressed the jury. He said, he did not expect with much confidence, that he should be able to put down this quack doctor by the acts of parliament, but he trusted that the facts which he should bring before them would secure a verdict for his client. The profession of physic was of the utmost importance to mankind, and when he reflected on the talents and character of those eminent persons in this country, who during the last hundred years had brought this art almost to perfection, he could not restrain the expression of his indignation at the frauds and injuries committed by those ignorant and culpable impostors, who, in order to fill their own pockets, trifled with the health, and often destroyed the lives, of their fellow-creatures. These insolent and detestable characters had flourished too long in this country. Some of them recommended internal medicines, while others professed to cure external ailments; but all of them pretended to be possessed of "sovereign medicines," and they poisoned the health and morals of the people, by the propagation of falsehood and imposture. He would not then mention the names of several of these persons, who vended patent pills, vital wine, and other nostrums, with promises of perpetual health and pleasure; but he most sincerely trusted, that the present case would appear before the public, and that it would open the eyes of the credulous part of mankind. Some of these quack doctors recommended themselves to public notice under *false names*, and some of them had *houses* in different parts of the town, being known at one place by one name, and at another place by a different name; and they did not hesitate to publish the most false and indecent puffs, sometimes, indeed, even committing perjury, in order to deceive the weak and ignorant by their pretended cures. These impos-

tors were the most dangerous pests of society; and he was surprised that any *respectable* journal could consent to publish the false catalogue of their infallible specifics. The indecent language which many of these persons employed, and the false names which they were known to assume, which was a fraud upon society, should operate on the liberal conductors of the press, and induce them to exclude such obscene advertisements. At present, no lady in a family, no female of character, could take up a newspaper to read, without having her eyes offended by these advertising quacks. *If the press were to act towards them as the public health and the public morals required, these men would soon cease to impose upon the credulous part of the community.* What could be more immoral, what, indeed, more criminal, than to defraud another of his money and his life, under the pretence of alleviating pain and restoring health? The best medicines, administered by the clearest heads—by men of learning, of judicious observation, and wise reasoning—would sometimes do the mischief they were intended to prevent: but when men without skill, without education, without knowledge, either of the distemper, or even of what they sell, make merchandise of the miserable, and, from a dishonest principle, trifle with the pains of the unfortunate, too often with their lives; every such instance, though not cognizable by our laws as murder, yet, in point of right, is equally black and detestable. Numbers of infatuated mortals had swallowed the deleterious preparations of the quack, and had sunk under the combined pressure of disease and medicine; who, had they resorted to the regular physician, to the man of education and experience, would have lived healthy and happy for many years. This was a most afflicting thought; and who that had a heart to feel would not endeavour to prevent the further progress of this iniquitous branch of trade? Having made these general observations, the learned gentleman proceeded to state, that Mrs. Phelps was attracted by the advertisements of the plaintiff, and his pledges of certain cure; and, unfortunately, her husband suffered this quack doctor to attend her. The lady became so wretched under his care, that she was obliged to apply to regular surgeons, who were under the necessity of taking off her breast. Such had been her fate under this doctor of medicine, although the distemper with which she was afflicted was originally only a small tumor. And yet this doctor had told her, that he had cured Mr. Walker, of the Percy Coffee-house, Rathbone-place, of a cancer in the mouth, and the child of Mr. Aste, in Tottenham-court-road, of a cancer in the arm, whereas both of them had died under his treatment. The following witnesses were then called;—

Mr. Matthew Coates Horsley, the brother of Mrs. Phelps, deposed, that on the 10th of May he went with her to *Doctor Hube*. Her breast had not improved under his hands: on the contrary, the swelling had much increased. The witness asked him what he conceived the tumor to be? He replied that it was a cancer—a stone cancer; he had seen some considerably larger, and some smaller; he had also seen some harder than this—as hard as a stone. He said he had been in the habit of curing cancers, and that in a month or six weeks he could cure Mrs. Phelps. He had not the smallest

doubt of this, as there was already an alteration for the better. He said he had patients then under his hands, namely, Mr. Walker, of Percy-street, and the daughter of Mr. Aste. He declared that he should not use the knife or caustic to Mrs. Phelps, but cure her by steaming. Mr. Phelps then agreed to pay the 12*l.*, on the assurance that the cure would be made. Witness saw his sister afterwards; the tumor was much increased, and the pain was dreadful!!

On cross-examination by Mr. Gurney, the witness stated, that his sister had been previously attended by Mr. Astley Cooper at intervals, but he had never professed that he would cure her.

Mr. Edward Stanley, a surgeon in Charlotte-street, Bedford-square, said, that he attended Mrs. Phelps, in July. The tumour was then very large, but it was not in a state of much irritation. He was decidedly of opinion, that no external application for the last six months could have been of any use to it. Nothing could be proposed but the removal of the disease by operation. That was effected. There was certainly no sovereign medicine, either internal or external, to cure the cancer.

Mr. Robert Newman Cumming, a surgeon, at Chelsea, deposed, that, on the 22d of June, he attended Mrs. Phelps. He found her labouring under violent spasms. He was of opinion that nothing would relieve her from the cancer but extirpation by the knife—there was no sovereign cure for a cancer.

Thomas Good, a wine-merchant, said, that he was acquainted with Mr. Walker, of Percy-street. Doctor Hube attended him in March last, and represented that he would *speedily* cure him. Mr. Walker had a cancer in the mouth, and the doctor was to cure him by the "Sovereign Medicine," and different outward applications. Mr. Walker became worse under the doctor's care, and died under his hands, of that distemper!! It was not for the want of paying the doctor well!

Mr. John Aste deposed, that he had heard by chance of Dr. Hube, and sent for him to attend his daughter, who was eight years old. The doctor said that she had a cancer on the arm, and that he would forfeit his life if he did not cure her in six months. He then sent her some lotion, and some of the "Sovereign Medicine." The child, however, grew worse, the doctor attended her from March till the end of July, and in December she died. The witness paid the doctor 23*l.* for his medicines and attendances.

Mr. Gurney, in reply observed, that the best medicines would sometimes fail; that his client, though not a regular physician, was a man of great skill and experience; and that, in this case, there had been a positive agreement to pay him for the medicines and attendances.

The Chief-Justice summed up the evidence, and told the jury, that the action was brought to recover 12*l.* 10*s.* for medicines, and 4*l.* 10*s.* for attendances. But, at all events, the plaintiff was not entitled to charge for attendances, as he had formerly delivered in a bill for 12*l.* 10*s.* for medicines only, and the defendant had not engaged to pay him for attendance. The only question for their consideration was, whether the defendant had been induced to allow the plaintiff to attend his wife on the false and fraudulent representation that he would cure her. This was the case of a man, not a regular practitioner, who held forth that he would cure a particular disease, and then referred to other cases which he had treated with great success. It appeared, however, that in the instance to which he had referred, *the patients, instead of being cured, had died under his hands.* Now, no man had a right to induce another to purchase any thing of him, whether medicines or other articles, by holding out *false and fraudulent* hopes. The question therefore was—Did the defendant allow the plaintiff to furnish medicines under *false and fraudulent* promises? If they were of that opinion, they

would find a verdict for the defendant; but if they thought that the plaintiff had not practised any delusion, then they would give him such compensation as they might consider reasonable.

The jury immediately returned a verdict for the defendant.

We are credibly informed, that in consequence of the very admirable address delivered to the jury by that upright and scientific counsel, Mr. Scarlett, the Editors of the most respectable daily papers that are published in this metropolis, have determined to exclude the advertisements of the most notorious quacks from their pages.—If this praiseworthy example were to be followed by the Editors of all the newspapers in England, this most disgraceful traffic would soon, as the learned Dr. Pew would observe, “be consigned to the tomb of all the Capulets,” where it has doubtless sent millions.

CUBEBS.—The dried berries of the *piper cubeba*, sold under the name of *cubeba*, have long been held in high estimation among the Indians as a remedy for gonorrhoea and gleet. Mr. Astley Cooper, and other surgeons of London, have lately found them highly beneficial in those affections, often effecting a cure in the course of a few days. Although they possess a stimulating property, these gentlemen contend that they allay irritation of secreting membranes. In lucophlegmatic or languid constitutions, we have administered them with success in the first stage of gonorrhoea (after the use of an aperient medicine); but in excitable and plethoric habits they have evidently aggravated the disease. For gleet, a discharge of mucus from the bladder (termed chronic catarrh of the bladder), and the *fluor albus*, they unquestionably afford an excellent remedy.—They are given in different forms: some surgeons order a tea-spoonful of the berries in the state in which they are imported, to be taken two or three times a day. They contend that when they are gradually digested, they do not produce so much irritation in the stomach as when taken in a state of powder;—others give a preference to the powder, because, if the digestion be not very good, the berries will pass through the intestinal canal undigested. Certain it is, that if the stomach be stimulated to a degree as to increase the heat of the body or accelerate the circulation, the inflammatory affection of the urethra will be increased; but if the stomach be slightly stimulated, a determination of nervous fluid is produced to it, and, probably, to the intestines which relieves the affection of the urethra. These berries afford on distillation an essential oil resembling that of the juniper, a thick oil on expression, and on evaporating an alcoholic tincture, a resin similar to the article sold under the name of Balm of Gilead. They also possess a better principle, which promotes digestion; they are diuretic, and the urine from its strong odour is evidently strongly impregnated with its peculiar terobenthinate part. It is from this latter circumstance, many practitioners attribute their beneficial effects in acute and chronic excitements of the internal surface of the bladder and urethra. For gleet and *fluor albus*, the saturated tincture is the best preparation, and, we have no hesitation in saying, the most efficacious remedy for those complaints that has been introduced into the practice of medicine. A tea-spoonful of this tincture taken three times a day in a wine-glass of barley water, will soon satisfy the patient of the truth of this assertion. For debility of the digestive organs, particularly in elderly people, and when accompanied with edematous swelling of the legs, attended with paucity of urine, flatulence, &c. it is also a valuable remedy.

CRAMP IN THE MUSCLES OF THE LEGS.—A respectable lady desires us to state, “that she has found the leaves and the

flowers of rosemary worn in the shoes, to prevent the recurrence of spasms of the muscles of the legs,—That she had suffered exceedingly from repeated attacks of this painful disease, but since she adopted this remedy, (which was recommended to her by a friend) she has remained entirely free from it." Did the essential oil of the rosemary, in this case, act on the nerves, or on the imagination? That the lady has remained entirely free from spasms since she adopted the remedy, and that she previously suffered severely from frequent attacks of the malady, we know to be facts.

BOX.—The powder of box leaves, though given as an astringent to neat cattle, appears to be fatal to pigs. The box borders of several beds in Mr. Boor's garden at Withering Lodge, near Stamford, were last week thrown upon some manure, in which nine strong pigs were rooting, four of whom died from eating the leaves, notwithstanding castor oil and other antidotes were given.

BEER.—No production of this country abounds so much with vegetable saccharine matter as the shells of green peas. A strong decoction of them so much resembles in odour and taste an infusion of malt (termed wort) as to deceive a brewer. This decoction rendered slightly bitter with the wood sage, and afterwards fermented with yeast, affords a very excellent beverage. The method we have employed is as follows:—Fill a boiler with the green shells of peas, pour on water till it rises half an inch above the shells, and simmer for three hours. Strain off the liquor, and add a strong decoction of the wood sage, or the hop, so as to render it pleasantly bitter; then ferment in the usual manner. The wood sage is the best substitute for hops, and being free from any anodyne property, is entitled to a preference. By boiling a fresh quantity of shells in the decoction before it becomes cold, it may be so strongly impregnated with saccharine matter, as to afford a liquor when fermented as strong as ale. In our next number we intend to give the results of several experiments we have made with different roots, particularly the beet, the parsnip, carrot, wurzel, turnip and potatoe, pea shells, different seeds, as wheat, barley, peas, and ripe fruit, in order to ascertain the proportion of alcohol they afford.

GREEN TEA.—The Prussic acid has lately been obtained from the leaves of green tea, in so concentrated a state, that one drop introduced into the stomach of a dog, proved almost instantaneously fatal. Green tea, therefore, was not likely to be greatly deteriorated by adulteration. Indeed, if no other leaves than those of the ash, the sloe, and the birch were employed, it was rendered more salubrious than otherwise. A correspondent in Dublin informs us, that the accounts which appeared in all the papers of the leaves of henbane and deadly night-shade having been detected in the adulterated tea seized in Ireland were false, and evidently fabricated by those concerned in making the seizures. That the teas imported from China afford, on distillation, an essential oil very injurious to animal life, is a well known fact, and that the prevalence of disorders of the stomach (fashionably termed bilious complaints,) and disorders of the nervous system, are more the effects of tea than any other article of diet or luxury, we have not the smallest doubt. A strong infusion of green or Souchong tea, sweetened with sugar, is as effectual in poisoning flies as the solution of arsenic, which is generally sold for the purpose.

THE CARDIAC AND NERVOUS TINCTURE.—This nostrum, prepared by James Rymer, *Esquire*, and *Surgeon* of Ryegate, under the *protection* and *sanction* of his Majesty's Royal Letters Patent, the proprietor declares to be the *ONLY safe* and *effectual* remedy for disorders of the stomach, head, and bowels. In the Treatise the learned *Esquire* and

Surgeon has published on its properties, &c., he assures the public that it possesses *sixteen* virtues.—That it is *stimulant* and *febrifuge*!!—That it is diaphoretic, diuretic, and a corrector of putrid bile!!—That it is cephalic and stomachic!!—That it is sedative and aromatic, &c. &c.!!—Consequently, that it is good for nearly all the diseases that assail poor humanity, particularly “the *flying* and the *windy* gout, relaxations of all kinds, whether general or local, *jail* distempers, stomachic and intestinal wind, cramps and spasms, paucity and excess of urine, watery habits, and thirty-six other diseases; and also for *sudden deaths*!! For children and delicate persons, (whether young or old) it is an admirable corroborant, rendering the young strong and healthy, and the aged young.” The Squire and Surgeon embraces with pleasure, the opportunity his publication affords him of returning his thanks to those *medical* gentlemen who, in *difficult* cases, have with candour and liberality recommended patients, not only to *his* medicine but to *his* opinion!!!

In costive habits it tends greatly to “open the body; but in cases of looseness it tends to check it!”

By way of caution, “that the public may not be *imposed upon*,” the Squire and Surgeon “begs leave to state, that each bottle is sealed with his coat of armour as follows:—Field Gules, (not Gulls) a tree *fructed* and *eradicated*—against the Trunk a Greyhound (not a Bull) passant argent, collared of the second—(no Duck) and around the margin of the seal are the words, By the King’s Patent, James Rymer.” With respect to the cures the cardiac and nervous tincture has effected, they would fill as many volumes as are to be found in the library of the learned Dr. Birkbeck, or Mrs. Johnson, or indeed of Mrs. Dick. “On chemically examining this “*only* safe and effectual remedy for disorders of the head, stomach, and bowels,” we find it to be composed of camphor, sulphuric acid, rhubarb, castor capicum, and spirit of wine!!! A very judicious composition for fevers, pestilential sore throat, apoplectic predisposition, asthma, and twenty more diseases of inflammatory excitement!!! Three parts of the long list of diseases for which the Squire and Surgeon recommends this remedy as an infallible specific, arise from opposite causes, and are attended with opposite states of the constitution. When the system is in a plethoric state or increased excitement, what must be the effects of such a powerful stimulant? In such cases it would indeed be found good for sudden death.

The proprietor’s right to style himself an *Esquire* we shall not dispute, being, no doubt as much entitled to it as to that of Surgeon. The modest assumption of the title of Esquire, reminds us of an observation lately made by an eminent Lecturer, on finding himself, and all the members of the Medico-Chirurgical Society, styled Esquires by the secretary, (who very modestly added the title to his own name):—“I have no claim whatever to any such rank in society, and I suspect, according to the list, that more Esquires than Surgeons belong to the society. The man must be vain indeed who assumes titles to which he has no just claim. At my hospital we have three Knights, and I wish I could say as many Surgeons!!” If a person fancying he has derived any relief from Squire Rymer’s cardiac and nervous tincture, in cases of indigestion arising from debility of the stomach and general languor of the nervous system, will give the following tincture a trial, we have no hesitation in asserting that he will receive from it more *speedy* and *permanent* benefit.

Take of extract of rhatany (foreign,) half an ounce; cubebs, bruised, two ounces; columbo root, bruised, one ounce; mix, and infuse for ten days in a quart of the best brandy, shaking the bottle twice a day for four or five minutes. Of the clear tincture, two tea-spoonsful may be taken two or three times a day in a glass of water.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

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To JULY 1, 1819.

VOL. IV.

OF DR. FERRIS.

THIS eminent physician, after receiving a classical education, commenced his studies in modern medicine, under his particular friend, Dr. Bates, at that time a physician of great celebrity, at Little Missenden, in Buckinghamshire. He afterwards attended the Hospitals in London, and the anatomical lectures and dissection rooms of the immortal Dr. William Hunter, who paid him great attention. From London he went to Edinburgh, where he soon became a member of the different medical societies. In 1782, the Harveian Prize Medal was voted to him, for a scientific dissertation on the chemical and alimentary properties of milk. This work he published on taking up his residence in London, with some judicious observations on the important advantages arising from maternal suckling, both to mothers and their progeny, when not contraindicated by disease or some natural defect. In 1784, he graduated as a doctor of physic in Edinburgh, at which time he was one of the presidents of the Royal Medical Society. In the thesis he wrote on this occasion, he ably maintained the humoral pathology in opposition to the new doctrines of Mr. John Hunter, on the vitality of the blood, and of Sir Francis Millman, on the diminution of the vital power as the proximate cause of putrid fever.

In 1785, Dr. Ferris entered a perpetual physician's pupil at St. George's Hospital; and in the same year, after the usual examination, he was admitted a licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians of London. He then commenced practice in the metropolis, and was elected one of the first presidents of the *Lyceum Medicum Londinense*, established under the patronage of Dr. G. Fordyce and Mr. J. Hunter. Soon afterwards he removed to Little Missenden, in Buckinghamshire, as successor to his friend, Dr. Bates; but subsequently returned to London, where he published an anonymous work, for popular distribution, with a view to counteract the dangerous principles of Thomas Paine, and of the jacobinical clubs. In 1792, Dr. F. was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in London. About this period, he gave gratuitous lectures on select articles of the *Materia Medica*, at the house of the late Dr. Burgess, of Mortimer-street, with whom he was particularly intimate. In 1797 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of London. In 1795 he united with the most respectable licentiates of the Royal College of Physicians, for the laudable purpose of obtaining, by legal decision, an equality of privileges with the Fellows of the College, which was demonstrably intended by the College Charter; and to prove the facts, he published, in 1795, his general view of the establishment of physic as a science in England, &c.; a publication which shews good sense,

liberal principles, a minute investigation of the College rights, and a fair and candid interpretation of them, to which every man of science will accede, and which even the chicanery of the law can hardly contest. Dr. Ferris justly remarks, "that the brightest talents, if not in alliance with the Universities in England, are unavailing titles to patronage from the corporate society of the College. The blaze of unconnected genius may, by accident, display its brilliancy; but it has to make its arduous way through a dense cloud of inveterate prejudice. Men of the greatest vigour of mind are often thus depressed and condemned to toil in obscurity, excluded from all the legal privileges to which talents and industry, learning and virtue, fairly and unequivocally entitle them; whilst the grossest ignorance and empiricism, the most atrocious knavery in physic, is tolerated and suffered to roll on in an uninterrupted course of luxurious prosperity. When the cause of all this, observes the doctor, is done away—when the stream of professional preferment is restored to its original channel, and the source of professional fame to its original purity, we may look forward to the accomplishment of the great object for which the faculty of physic was incorporated, and which is now so extremely neglected, as to be apparently forgotten."

The health, the welfare, the happiness of mankind, might be greatly promoted by the impartial encouragement of professional merit, and by a general and uniform exertion in a liberally regulated College, to suppress a herd of infamous quacks and scandalous impostors, who daily buoy up the hopes and expectations of deluded multitudes, and fatten upon their credulity." One would suppose that an appeal so reasonable, and supported by arguments unanswerable, made to a body of learned philosophers, who profess to be warm advocates for supporting the dignity of the profession and promoting medical science, would have had some influence. The doctor's ideas were however deemed visionary.—To their ears the word reformation was most appalling. All corporate bodies should be tenacious of their rights, and entertain a just estimation of the loaves and fishes. They had already been, in some degree, compelled by public ridicule, to give up the cane and the wig, which, at the bed-side of invalids, and on the minds of hypochondriacs, had considerable influence. That the efficacy of medicine was promoted by the doctoreal paraphernalia, no man of observation could deny; and that physicians have lost much of their influence in society by relinquishing them, daily experience affords ample proofs. In the profession of the law, the wig is still retained; and it must be allowed, that its appearance gives great weight to the arguments of pleaders, on the minds of an *enlightened* jury. What indeed, observed Dr. Pemberton, would the Bashaw be without his nine-tailed wig? Further sacrifices they could not make; and those who contend that their laws, which are founded on the wisdom of all the antients, are inimical to the progress of medical science, must be enemies to their institution.

Dr. Ferris was likewise an active member of the Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, in the

Adelphi, London; and in 1799, he was one of the chairmen of correspondence and papers in that society; and during that year he was appointed by the committee of governors of St. George's Hospital, to act as physician to that hospital, during the absence of Dr. Robert Barclay. At the beginning of 1800, in consequence of an increasing asthma, which assailed him every winter in London, he determined to reside entirely at Beaconsfield, in Buckinghamshire, where he still continues to exercise the important office of a physician with great credit to himself; and of late years he has added to his employments the duties of an acting magistrate for the county.

It is to be regretted, from the specimens he has given of accurate experiments and deep philosophical reasoning, that he has not applied his mind to other subjects of equal interest to the community as those we have noticed; but we may safely say that, during his professional progress, he has shewn himself an ornament to the regular profession, and that, in the different literary associations of which he is a member, he has displayed a zeal and ability which will render his absence felt.

The author of "Authentic Memoirs of eminent Physicians and Surgeons in the United Kingdom," in speaking of this gentleman, observes, "With the profession of high literary talents, independence and exertion in his professional career have been the leading traits of his character; and on opposing the unphilosophical and illiberal conduct of the College of Physicians, a memorable event in his history, he displayed both the liberal impulse of duty, and a proper respect for the dignity and interest of his brethren, and the true interest of his country."

PARTURITION.—Mr. Power, a member of the Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh, and practitioner in Midwifery &c., has lately published a Treatise on Midwifery, in which he flatters himself he has developed "new principles by which the duration of labour may be *materially* lessened." The work is divided in two parts. The first comprises the *doctrines* of parturition; and the second "practical observations relative to the *process*." In the doctrinal department we discover nothing new, or likely to interest our non-medical readers. Natural parturition the author defines to be "labour which terminates favourably within six hours without pain." In civilized life, this operation of nature unfortunately never terminates so happily; and the cases that proceed more tediously, and with pain, being denominated *unnatural*, the result of his new mode of treatment, as detailed by himself, will have little or no weight on the minds of experienced practitioners. The only part of his "practical observations" that has the semblance of novelty, is the employment of friction over the abdomen, to keep up the action of the uterus, abdominal muscles, &c., by preventing metastatic determination of nervous energy to any other part of the body, or, as we should say, to keep up a determination of nervous fluid to the parts engaged in the process. Although friction has long been employed to excite the action in the uterus, in cases of retention of the after-birth, the author exultingly claims the merit of *originality* in this treatment. On this

mode of assisting nature, he observes—"Friction is, without doubt, beneficial, by exciting warmth in the part rubbed, and also in affording it pressure and support; it is probable also that it possesses a peculiar *ratio operandi* dependent upon a stimulating action produced amongst the nervous rami of the muscular fibres, by their consequent agitation or concussion, and by which their local or innate irritability (*vis insita*) may become so far exhausted, or changed in its quantity, or susceptible of receiving nervous impressions, as to give rise to diminished action or quiescence of the moving fibres, with correspondent cessation or diminution of painful sensation. The nervous energy, being thus prevented from being expended upon the part affected metastatically, is determined to the proper seat of its action, the uterine muscles.

"It has been advanced that the present genus is characterized by the existence of spasmodic pain of the muscles affected, and soreness on pressure continuing through the interval; the above state of pain, although it occasionally and partially continues or lingers through the interval, is more particularly attendant upon the paroxysm. The application of friction will be found to alleviate or disperse both these symptoms, so that the spasmodic pain will often be entirely removed, the subsequent paroxysms being simply attended by the efforts of expulsion, conjoined more or less with the pains necessarily arising from the dilatation of sensible parts or spasmodic uterine action; the state of soreness will totally be done away with, so that the patient who, at the commencement of the friction, could scarcely bear the slightest touch, will now suffer the roughest pressure without inconvenience.

"This sense of soreness occasionally produces a strong objection on the part of the patient to the use of the friction; and she will, in consequence of the distress accompanying its commencement, earnestly entreat its discontinuance. Her wishes must, however, on no account be complied with, and she ought to be encouraged to support the operation with resolution and patience, under the full assurance (an assurance which will not be disappointed) that the inconvenience of which she complains will speedily vanish under its use: the objection, in reality, constitutes the strongest reason for perseverance, as being a certain evidence of the existence of metastasis, the removal of which is necessary for her welfare, and which the friction will, if persisted in, be almost certain to remove.

"The application of friction will, however, rarely be found a painful operation to the patient: on the contrary, if artfully commenced, the relief and comfort experienced from it will both surprise and gratify her, although this happy effect may prove not a little troublesome to the accoucheur himself: the author has occasionally been compelled to keep up his friction, even with both hands at once, for one or two hours without intermission, in consequence of the urgent entreaties or commands of his patient, whose relief from it has been so great, that she would on no account allow him to desist or quit her for a moment.

"The length of time required to produce the desired effect will be found different in different cases, according to the nature of the ex-

citing causes: in some the improper action will be removed almost instantly, and as it were by a miracle, so that a case which has been protracted for the greater part of a week under the most intense suffering, without the least progress, has been happily terminated in fifteen or twenty minutes from the first commencement of the friction; in other cases a longer period will be requisite, before any evidence can be gained of its good effects; but it may in general be expected that the paroxysm following the commencement will be combined with uterine efforts, and the pain and soreness which had previously existed, materially lessened.

"The spasmodic actions of the part affected may be taken off without the metastatic action being removed; which action will then be determined to a new set of muscles; for instance, if it has previously existed in the abdominal muscles, it may, on being expelled from thence, fix itself upon the lumbar one: in this case particular attention should be paid to the exciting causes, which may be considered as powerfully exciting their actions; but the use of friction is not to be relaxed from; on the contrary, a more vigorous application will become necessary, and the back must be rubbed in its turn. The spasmodic pain may now possibly revert to the abdomen, and may be thus made to oscillate at pleasure from one to the other: it will now be requisite to apply the friction to both parts at once, each hand being brought into action, and occasionally a third or fourth may become desirable: this want may be imperfectly supplied by an assistant, who can, if unable to supply the friction, at least keep up warmth and pressure.

"In the above case, the operation always requiring much exertion from the practitioner, becomes peculiarly laborious, at least until he is habituated to it; if, however, it multiplies his exertions, and exhausts a portion of his strength, he will find himself amply recompensed by the saving of time, and the satisfaction of having afforded real good to his patient. The old adage, that 'Practice makes perfect,' will eventually operate in his favour, and neutralize his exertions: the author has, from practice, acquired so much facility, as to be able to use both hands at the same time for one or two hours without intermission, and with little fatigue.

"It is a feature of no small importance in the effects of friction, that those patients with whom it has been used have, in almost every instance, recovered with remarkable celerity, although in previous and protracted parturitions, where it was not employed, they had sustained much subsequent illness, and deferred recoveries: in short, in the practice of the author, puerperal diseases are comparatively unknown."

With respect to the method of employing friction, we are told by the author, that

"Experience has proved that it is not so efficacious when applied with the palm or flat part of the hand; the friction is then not so regular, the warmth and glow attending it less excited, and the exertions of the operator are materially increased; nor will its good effect be so decided.

"The better mode of applying it is with the ends of the fingers,

applied together so as to form the segment of a circle, and moved over the part to be rubbed, in much the same way as the sound is elicited from a tambourine: this must, however, be done with great celerity, making from 130 to 150 motions of the hand in a minute, and, at the same time, with such degree of pressure as will produce considerable warmth and glowing feel in the part. The application should be made to the skin itself, and not through the medium of clothing, and must be vigorously kept up in the above described manner, and extended with rapidity over the part affected; and if the spasmodic action should be found to vary its situation, it must instantly follow it.

"Notwithstanding it may appear to have produced its full and decided effect, the friction must be persisted in for some time, as it will not unfrequently happen, that, when discontinued, the metastatic action will return; at least it must be occasionally repeated, particularly if any variation in the nature or seat of the pain is observed.

"If the state of soreness is considerable, the friction must be cautiously commenced, only a slight degree of pressure being at first used, according to the sensations of the patient: this must gradually be increased; and it will be found that, in proportion as it proceeds, the soreness will be diminished, until its full force can be sustained without inconvenience.

"In order to perform the operation with comfort to the accoucheur, the bed-clothes and dress of the patient should be arranged so as to offer the least possible impediment; for it is singular, how immediately the arm tires if any obstacle is opposed to it; the position of the patient must be regulated by the part requiring assistance, and will generally be obvious: to make the application to the abdomen, she will conveniently lie on the back, but the usual position on the left side will generally be found most convenient. It may be remarked as an useful fact, that the part on which the patient lies is very rarely affected by the spasmodic state, in consequence of the pressure and support given to it."

To "lessen the sufferings of a parturient patient by shortening the duration of labour," must be the most anxious wish of every accoucheur; but the experienced practitioner will take into consideration that period which follows labour, termed by old women, "a getting up." By keeping up the action of the uterus and the muscles engaged in parturition, we may unquestionably "shorten the duration," but by it may we not retard her recovery and prevent that "good getting up," which is always highly creditable to the accoucheur?—May not friction over the abdomen, (particularly after the evacuation of the waters, when the projecting joints of the extremities of the fœtus render the external surface of the uterus irregular), be productive of inflammatory excitement in the parietes of the womb, or inflammation of the membrane termed *Peritonæum*, which might afterwards, by occasioning puerperal fever, endanger the life of the patient? When nature flags, friction may be employed with advantage; but even in that case we are to consider the nature of the obstacle we have to overcome. If the capacity of the pelvis

be preternaturally small, or the head of the child preternaturally large, the judicious practitioner, instead of further exhausting the powers of the system, would have recourse to means that would more effectually lessen her suffering, and be more likely to ensure a "good getting up." The state of the constitution should be taken into consideration; for in a nervous and plethoric subject friction may excite fever, and by disturbing the brain may produce the metastatic determination which the principal object of the Author's practice is to prevent. The most successful practitioners in midwifery are those who are the least officious, or rather those who do not interfere with the process only when nature absolutely requires assistance. On the effects of an abstraction of blood during protracted labour, the observations of the Author are puerile.—When the sanguiferous system is overloaded with blood, and particularly when the brain is compressed by distended vessels, the loss of blood is unquestionably proper.—During labour pains the afflux of blood to the brain is often increased to that degree as to compress that organ, and thereby greatly to weaken the power of the system. In such cases, by abstracting blood, a weight is removed off the springs of life, which immediately affords such relief to the patient as to enable her to go through the process with cheerfulness. In a debilitated subject of a phlegmatic habit, the loss of blood would weaken the parts engaged in the process, but no sane person would have recourse to such a measure in such a case.—This would be an abuse, and not a warrantable use of a most important remedy.

DEAFNESS.—SIR,—In your 33d Number, a gentleman of Lincoln's-inn advised a solution of bay salt as a cure for deafness. I replied in the following number, that I had never found it useful in any case, but injurious to a certain description of cases, which I mentioned, and begged to know in what species of deafness it had been found beneficial. To this no reply was given, except by yourselves, saying, you had met with *some* cases wherein it had been used with advantage. A person under the signature of Chemicus, in your 38th Number, again mentioned the same remedy; I answered, resting on my former ground, repeating my enquiry, and calling on Chemicus to explain himself, as to the improper or unnecessary use of names for remedies, which he seemed desirous of fixing as an aspersion on some person. Your last number furnishes an answer from Chemicus, who assumes, that as he has specified the composition, it becomes more my duty, as an aurist, than his, to point out the species of deafness in which it is likely to prove beneficial, and those in which it is capable of doing mischief. After having so distinctly stated the result of my observations, in regard to this remedy, it is too "*ridiculous*" (to use your correspondent's word) to expect that I should give a comparative account of its good qualities, and evil ones; the former of which, I have twice stated, I never saw an instance of; but I have had, very frequently, the pleasure of *curing* those who have tried this remedy without gaining *any relief*; and in several instances have given ease to persons suffering excruciating pain, in consequence, I most sincerely believe, of using it where ulceration of the auditory

passage existed. That the mere action of it, as a menstruum, may have cleansed the ears of superabundant cerumen, and thus have restored the hearing, I am ready to admit; but "*the urine of a young whelp, that cannot go alone,*" as recommended by some old authors, who also advise the solution of bay salt, either in water or vinegar, and many other *very curious and difficult things to obtain*, might produce the same effect; and probably, from their chemical properties, be even beneficial where bay salt would not: the mere solvent effect I speak of, is better accomplished by spirituous or aqueous preparations of soap, left in the ears for a time, and cleansing them by the use of a syringe, in the hands of a competent operator.

Your work is intended (according to my opinion of it) to convey useful information on subjects connected with the health and comforts of the community; and in order to elicit the observations of persons most likely to afford it, a degree of urbanity ought to be preserved by those who may differ in opinion as to the means of obtaining that desirable end of advancing the state of science, and increasing the comforts of mankind. I think that Chemicus has not adhered to this principle, even in his first letter; for without assigning any specific reason, he enters into a violent tirade against *uncommon* names for drugs, whereas I am persuaded you will agree in opinion, that the names of most articles of the *Materia Medica* are rendered more consonant to their real derivations; and I know of no person worthy of any notice from a sensible man, who has given any *uncommon* names to those medicines he may prescribe for afflictions of the organ of hearing; for after the quotations Chemicus gives us, he cannot think it *uncommon* to comply with the usual custom of writing the prescriptions in Latin.

Having made these general observations, I shall beg to make a few more particular remarks on some observations of your correspondent's; which, without any conscious feelings that they really apply, I must be deficient in common sense if I did not see were *intended* as insinuations against myself. Whenever one person attributes to another (without knowing his character) any improper motives, it is a fair presumption that he would act in the manner he ascribes to the other, if placed in the same situation. Now, as I can defy all the world to produce one person whom I have either kept under my care one hour longer than I really and conscientiously thought was for the benefit of my patient, or ever betrayed into expence, by pretending to cure what was impossible in our present state of knowledge to benefit, I think it is a fair supposition that if it had pleased God to make an aurist of your correspondent, he would have been as interestedly "*plausible*" and "*politic*" as he thinks an aurist necessarily ought to be, but of which any man of character would never deserve the imputation.

As Chemicus seems to have an ambition to shine in that department, and to your readers who are not acquainted with the anatomy of the ear, his description of the "*invigorating*" and "*chemical*" effects of the remedy he advocates, "*upon the branches of the nerves spread over the membrana tympani, and the internal*

surface of the external ear," may appear a luminous display of erudition; I shall beg to observe, first, as to himself, he has much to acquire as to the variety of remedies suited to the various species of deafness, more than he appears now to be acquainted with, before he can practise with that satisfaction, which every man, who prefers honour to interest, ought to feel, on a retrospective view of his labours; and as to your readers, I think I shall shew that Chemicus is not only too inconsistent to entitle him to attention, but also too erroneous and vague in his prescription, to have any right of recommending it on the ground of experience.

In regard to the inconsistency of your correspondent, it will be evident from reading his first and last letters; in the former he says, *three or four cases* have been benefitted by this remedy; but he does not mean to state that it will answer in *all* cases of deafness, such as where the *tympanum* is injured, or where there is a deficiency of wax; or it may be possible from several other causes.—In his last letter we have more correct technical terms, though not *commonly* understood; nor, as it appears, understood by Chemicus, when he wrote his first letter. The nerves are now spread out before us, and he positively asserts, it *will cure all cases* of deafness arising from a relaxation of the *membrana tympani*, and *will* also promote a secretion of wax. I should like very much to hear your correspondent's account of the origin of these different species of deafness, which he thus in the body of his letters acknowledges to exist, although in the commencement of the last, he attempts to attribute unworthy motives to me for making the observation. An aurist, properly speaking, is a person who attends to *all* complaints of the ear; and no one can, in my opinion, be qualified to do so, unless he looks further than mere *local* applications. In your 32d Number, p. 992, and other of the Medical Journals for that month, Chemicus will see a case where medicine produced effects of a most beneficial nature, although the first cause was entirely local, and most of the species of deafness which he cites, must be cured by removing the inducing cause from the constitution. Although my success in relieving deafness has been unexampled, yet I have two much esteemed friends, whose deafness in my opinion, and that of several medical gentlemen of the first character for abilities, arises from a relaxation of the *membrana tympani*, and to whose cases medicine and topical applications have not yet afforded relief; bay salt in solution, as advised in a work 300 years old, has also been tried, but without effect. Having thus expressed my opinion of *any* solution of this salt, I shall not take advantage of the vague and uncertain directions given by Chemicus, as to the quantities, who, from his assumed name, we should have expected to be more precise, except to declare my perfect conviction that he *never applied* the remedy, or knew of its effects, but by hear-say; and as I shall not, like him, make assertions without offering a reason; I consider this a satisfactory one; namely, that as much bay salt as will lay on a sixpence, *cannot* be dissolved in a tea-spoonful of water, either hot or cold.

I shall now take leave of Chemicus, as I cannot compromise the

respectable station in life which I fill, by further reply to an anonymous correspondent, particularly as he has departed from fair argument, and resorted to *unfounded insinuations* in support of his *contradictions*.

In your next Number I shall offer some observations on the use of gurgles in cases of deafness, with the manner of using them most advantageously. I am, Sirs, Your obedient Servant,

28, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden,

W. WRIGHT,

June 8th, 1819.

Surgeon, Aurist to her late Majesty.

THE SOUL—The following lecture, delivered by Dr. Reece to his private pupils, on the existence of a soul, we give as a refutation of the dangerous doctrines of materialism, lately broached by professional gentlemen—doctrines to which the alarming progress infidelity has of late years made, and the frequency of the most appalling crimes, are chiefly to be ascribed.

Having noticed, observes Dr. R., the chemical properties and sensible effects of the articles employed in the practice of medicine, and their probable *modus operandi* in the cure of diseases, I shall now describe the shape, structure, connexion, and situation of the different parts of the human body. The different systems of which the machine is composed, have such a connexion and reciprocal influence on one another, that it is difficult to fix on a part to commence a description. If in imagination, observed the immortal Hunter, I were to make the body of man, I should proceed on the supposition that it was to be a corporeal fabric for the residence of an invisible spirit termed the soul, through which it was to maintain a correspondence with other material beings, and to become acquainted with the physical world, and should consider what would be wanted for her accommodation. (On taking this view of the subject, we shall plainly see the beautiful arrangements of the Creator, and the final causes of the different organs which we discover in the human machine.

A late writer, a surgeon of some eminence, ridicules the idea of the human body being occupied or superintended by an immaterial principle, declaring it (like the late Dr. Priestly, and other philosophers) to be wholly material. The assemblage of all the functions constituting life, he contends, is *immediately* dependent on organization; and that the operations of the mind, which we ascribe to a soul, are merely the results of certain distribution of particles of matter; and, consequently, that the idea of rewards and punishments in a future state, or of our surviving the grave, was originally the invention of rulers, for the purpose of subjugating the human mind, and thereby making their subjects willingly to submit to slavery; or, in other words, freely to give unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's, and to the preachers of their doctrines the things that belong to them, as the servants of God!

The doctrines of materialism are so truly gloomy and derogatory to man, that the devout person, or the man who requires no further evidence of an immortal part, than the "divinity which stirs within him," turns with horror from them.

If anatomy affords any ground for the supposition that there is not an immaterial or spiritual tenant or superintendent, the person capable of connecting the various phenomena of life with the functions of the machine, will discover that the belief of an immortal spirit, so natural to man, civilized and uncivilized, is founded in truth.

Before we enter into the examination of the evidence the physiology, &c. afford of an immaterial principle, it may be proper, in order to avoid equivocation, to define what is really meant by the term Matter.

By matter, is understood a substance by which its different modifications or arrangements become an object of one of our five senses. The invisible fluids, as air and caloric (the matter of heat), are palpable, and therefore immediate objects of a sense; but there are other fluids which are not perceived by our senses,—as the magnetic fluid, and others, which, being productive of physical phenomena, are objects of the senses. Every thing which is an object of one or more of our five senses, although, on account of its subtlety, it may not affect them, is considered a part of the physical world, and consequently as matter. According to this definition, immaterialism is the total absence of matter, and therefore, you will say, cannot occupy space; or, that it is in fact, *nothing*; and therefore, that this definition is in favour of materialism. By saying that the soul is not material, we mean that it is not composed of particles derived from the physical world: that it is not, like bodies which receive their support or substance from the produce of the earth, subject to decomposition; and consequently, on quitting its material tenement, it leaves the physical world altogether.

The Materialists contend that the mental operations or intellectual functions are secretions of the brain, as the bile is of the liver, the urine of the kidneys, &c., and that all the organs of the five senses transmit their impressions to the brain;—that recollection or memory is the effect of impressions produced on particles of the brain.—Now, as materialists require of the opposers of their doctrines, something like demonstrable evidence of the existence of an immaterial principle, we may be allowed to ask them to give us material evidence of the impressions produced on the brain by the senses; to which they ascribe *memory*. Can they on dissection demonstrate to us any thing like impressions? The impressions will be found to exist only in their own brains.—Again, how are the impressions ultimately produced on the brain by the organ of sense which transmits them? By the sense of touch we simultaneously ascertain the firmness, the ponderosity, shape, and the state of the surface with respect to roughness, humidity, and heat. Can we suppose, that by any material action the nerves of the part applied to the article can transmit those impressions to the brain at the same time, so as to bring to our recollection those different circumstances at a distance of many years? If recollection be the consequence of impressions produced by the organs of the five senses, the number of impressions it is capable of receiving must greatly ex-

ceed that of the atoms of which the organ is composed; for the different sounds transmitted by the ear, odours by the nose, flavours, &c. by the tongue, shapes, &c. by touch, and colours, &c. by the eyes, must nearly be as numerous as the particles which enter the composition of the whole physical world.

When I explained to you the offices of the different organs of the body, I dwelt some time on the processes by which the *mutation* of the body is effected. After our bodies have attained their full growth, we continue to take a certain number of meals daily, not for the purpose of increasing our size, but for the purpose of repairing the system. The chyle, the purest part of our food, is conveyed to the mass of blood, and is expended in repairing parts that have suffered by injury, exertion, or age. The old particles are taken up by the absorbents, and the new ones are deposited by the discerning extremities of arteries. This process, which is termed *mutation of the body*, is constantly going on in the brain as well as every other part of the machine, so that in the course of about six years, the whole body undergoes a thorough change, *i. e.* not a particle remains which belonged to it six years before. If therefore memory depends on impressions made on particles of the brain, no person's memory could go further back than six years. So far from this being the case, men at the age of one hundred and thirty years have clearly recollected circumstances which occurred during their youth; and on visiting the place in which they lived at the time, a variety of circumstances have been brought to their recollection, proving that if memory depended on material impressions, the brain, during the time that had elapsed (more than one hundred years), had not undergone even a partial change. The fact that the system undergoes a total mutation in the course of six years, (which no physiologist will deny), is so completely subversive of the doctrines of materialism, as to render any other proof of their fallacy unnecessary. I shall however notice their most plausible arguments. Age and death, they assert, afford decisive evidence of materialism, because as a subject advances in years the brain loses its energy, and the mental functions are in consequence more imperfectly performed. The mental powers also decline with the corporeal strength, and they both appear to terminate together. That the mind loses its powers in proportion as the body sinks, is not a fact; for in many cases of disease it seems even to acquire strength, as the powers of the body decrease. This we find to be the case, particularly in pulmonary consumption. The brain is the instrument which connects the soul with the body; and when it is diseased or debilitated, the connection of course will be diminished, and consequently the soul will be less able to keep up its acquaintance with the physical world. In proportion as the brain loses its vital power, so does the soul become detached.

Now if life be the effect of certain arrangement of particles or organization, why should it cease so long as the body remains entire? On examining the dead body, it is evident that it has parted with something; and what is that something but that principle of life which we term the soul? Now if the particles

of the body remain entire, why should they cease to act? When we consider that our stomachs are almost constantly engaged in preparing new materials for the support or mutation of the body, it is somewhat strange that those changes should take place in it, as decrepitude, debility, and the other consequences of age. If the object of our existence here was not to prepare a soul for eternity, why should we not exist as long as the physical world, when we are constantly repairing the system with sound materials? That the machine should become decrepid and infirm, and incapable of continuing its vital functions, are circumstances that cannot be accounted for on *material* principles. The phenomena of death therefore afford, in my opinion, decisive evidence of an immaterial principle.

Another proof of materialism, which these superficial philosophers suppose to be decisive, is, that when life is suspended by hanging and drowning, the patients, on recovery, are not conscious of the soul being active, but that the operations of the mind had clearly been suspended with the corporeal functions. This however is not a fact; for in every case of suspended animation that I have met with, the patients were, on being resuscitated, fully conscious of the mind having continued active during the whole time. One patient, whose life had been suspended about twelve minutes by drowning, assured me on recovering her senses, that her mind had been so active, that it appeared to her she had been absent many weeks; and so great had been her distress, that she could not describe what she had experienced. The bare recollection of what she had suffered frequently brought on hysteric fits. Another assured me that his sensations had been of the most pleasurable kind, but, like the other, he was incapable of giving any description of them.

The materialists inquire, if there be an immaterial part super-added to the body, when does the union take place? The power existing in the body of repairing injured parts, and of resisting contagion, is certainly more to be attributed to a soul, than to any power that can originate in organized matter; and as this power is as strong in an infant as in an adult, it is clear that the union took place anterior to parturition, probably when the fetus quickened. As the brain becomes more perfect, the mental powers increase and the subject becomes more intelligent; and these facts, they say, are again decisive evidence of materialism. Now, as I observed before, the soul is connected with the body by means of the brain; and as the brain becomes more perfect, so will the connection be more intimate. Besides, it is by means of the five senses that it becomes acquainted with the physical world; and until the brain and its appendage, the nerves, are arrived to maturity, it must necessarily remain somewhat inactive or in ignorance, with respect to what is going on externally. With regard to the performance of its offices in the body, we find that its powers are as strong during infancy as any other period of life. Now if the operations of the mind be the secretions of the brain, why should not the brain perform its mental functions immediately on the

subject being born? Is the brain matured or brought to perfection by the *impressions* which are produced on it by the five senses? If so, it is evident that it requires information to perfect it; and is not this a most decisive proof that it is connected with a principle capable of receiving intelligence, or something independent of matter?

Another plausible argument is, that a soul must occupy space, and therefore must occupy some part of the body, which the advocates for its existence cannot point out. Of all these arguments this is the weakest. If the electric fluid, which is material, can exist in an article without increasing its bulk or without any appearance of occupying any particular part, surely we may then suppose, that an immaterial part may possess the same quality.

The Materialists ask if there be a spiritual principle superadded to organization, why is not a person aware of its independence as he approaches dissolution? and why should the Almighty allow its existence to be doubtful? Now, as I have already observed, it is by means of the brain that it keeps up a correspondence with material beings; and as it becomes detached, the intercourse with them gradually ceases, inducing a superficial observer to suppose that the mind itself dies with the body. The Almighty has not kept us entirely ignorant of the existence of a soul; for the belief of the existence of a spiritual principle seems natural to us, and this idea pervades all nations, and the conviction seems stronger in the minds of the savage than in civilized man.

This world is a state of probation, and man, being responsible to his Creator for his conduct in it, is necessarily a free agent. Now, if the existence of a soul was as clear to us as the existence of our material body, and we were as satisfied of a future world as we are of one day being followed by another, there would be no merit in being good or in resisting the temptations of the devil. Man is the only animal that is capable of enjoying the glories of the physical world, and the power of penetrating the recesses of nature. Almost every thing appears to be created for his use, and if his career terminates here, the world was made for nothing.—Now, on examining the animal machine, we find that every part has its office, and throughout creation every thing has its use; we may therefore infer, that the world was made to answer some greater purpose than to afford the means of existence to man, who, without the prospect of a future state, would be the most miserable of its inhabitants; his only comfort being derived from the conviction that he will exist hereafter; and to deprive him of that prospect, or even to diminish his confidence in it, is cruel in the extreme.

On summing up their decisive proofs of materialism, they assert that the union of an immaterial principle with a material body, is an absolute impossibility. Now that the operations of the mind are the mere effects of organization of matter, or that matter can be so arranged, as to smell, to hear, to see, to taste, and to feel, is surely far more impossible than that an immaterial principle should be attached to the body. Can any reflecting man, or indeed a sane man, suppose for one moment, that reflection, perception, resolu-

tion, the compunctions and approbation of conscience, and the other operations of the mind, are the consequences of action of peculiarly organized matter? By means of the five senses (which have been not inaptly termed windows of the body, through which the soul becomes acquainted with material beings), effects may be primarily produced on the brain, and through *them* the soul acquires information; but I think every person who has paid attention to the subject, or to his own feelings, must be satisfied that many of the mental operations do not originate in the brain,—that perception, resolution, alarm, &c. commence in the soul, and that the effect on the brain is secondary. That perception, volition, conscience, &c. are produced by action of matter, is indeed an absurdity, if not an absolute impossibility. If the intelligence within us was corporeal, what one part knows would be unknown to the others. We could not without care compare nor unite our ideas so as to make propositions, nor propositions so as to form arguments, nor the arguments to form a continued discourse. Intelligence may be considered a perfection, and non-intelligence a defect; so that it is absolutely impossible, that what is unintelligent and insensible before organization, can become intelligent and self-conscious by organization, because organization does not alter the nature of things.

If the intellectual phenomena of man be dependent on an immaterial principle, we must, say the materialists, concede it to those animals which exhibit manifestations of intellect, differing from the human only in degree; and if we grant it to these we cannot refuse it to the next in order, and so on in succession. I see no strength their arguments in favour of materialism can receive from the circumstance of brutes possessing mental powers. We do not deny the existence of an immaterial principle in brutes, but surely it does not necessarily follow that it is immortal.

Other phenomena, as those of the five senses—passions of the mind, sympathies existing in the body, the various corporeal energies, dreams, foreboding, &c., might be noticed as affording the most unequivocal evidence of the superaddition of an immaterial principle to the brain; but in this field we need not proceed further; the facts I have already noticed, must, to the minds of the unprejudiced, afford a complete refutation of the degrading and gloomy doctrines of materialism. The declaration that the Almighty has not revealed any thing to man, with respect to futurity or his duty on earth, is equally erroneous. The accomplishment of the prophecies of Isaiah, &c. and recorded in the Old Testament, the instances of the visitation or judgment of God on nations who have acted in direct opposition to his word, afford unquestionable evidence of the sacred writings not being the invention of artful and designing men.

In the history of Jesus Christ, as related in the New Testament, we discover the most satisfactory evidence of a future state. To say nothing of the miracles he performed and the completion of his prophecies, the circumstances of his appearing to his disciples after death, and ascension of his body in the atmosphere till he

was out of sight, are facts as well authenticated as any that are recorded in the history of the world, and which prove beyond the possibility of a doubt that there is a future state of reward and punishment. We may therefore cheer ourselves with the conviction, that if we now see through a glass darkly, and know but in part, the time will assuredly come when we shall know even as we are known. We shall see things divested of all mystery, in a light which will admit of neither error nor obscurity. What appears to us now impossible or incomprehensible, we shall find beautifully simple; and what now bewilders and perplexes our understanding, we shall clearly comprehend, and all will appear worthy the Creator. This is a digression from the professed object of my lectures, but I hope the importance of the subject will justify it.

I shall conclude this lecture with an appropriate quotation from a celebrated Poet:—

“ Where can this soul then take its birth?
Not sure from matter, from dull clods of earth;
But from a living spirit lodged within,
Which governs *all* the bodily machine,
Just as the almighty universal Soul
Directs and animates the whole.
Cease then to wonder how th’ immortal mind
Can live, when from the body quite disjoin’d;
But rather wonder if she e’er could die,
So fram’d, so fashion’d for eternity;
Self-moved, nor form’d of parts together tied,
Which time can dissipate, and force divide;
For beings of this make can never die,
Whose powers within themselves and their own essence lie.”

GALVANISM, &c.—SIRS,—Having repeatedly seen many very interesting cases published in your useful Work, the Gazette of Health, which has justly obtained high popularity and an extensive circulation; I beg to transmit to you three important cases of the successful practice of Galvanism and the Air-Pump Vapour Bath, which have occurred under my immediate personal observation, and which afford abundant proofs of the utility of those remedies so little known to the faculty and to the public. Hoping their insertion in your numbers will be as useful to the afflicted as it is honourable to the practitioner, I am, SIRS, your most obedient humble Servant,

Cawthorn, Yorkshire, June 16, 1819.

D. WILSON.

Case of Asthma.—Mr. W. Spicer, Tailor, No. 5, South Moulton Street, Oxford Street, about forty years of age, of sedentary habits. He stated to me that his general health had been very good previous to an attack of acute rheumatism about twelve years ago, which confined him to bed for six months. After his recovery from that disease, his digestion became much affected, his bowels constipated, and the breathing disordered to an alarming degree. Damp and foggy weather and easterly winds distressed him much. He had long laboured under the various symptoms of indigestion and

confirmed habitual asthma, and he continued to get worse for several years, and had been very ill the last winter, during which he was not able to ascend a flight of stairs, but slept on the ground floor. His cough from the commencement of his malady was violent, and he expectorated a great deal of frothy and tough dark coloured phlegm. The means he employed to obtain relief were various. As he had placed himself under the care of some medical men, and they gave him no hopes of recovery, but pronounced his disorder incurable, he tried every empirical remedy he heard of without obtaining any benefit. He was at last recommended by a friend to apply to Mr. La Beaume. He came to him on the 27th of March last, while he was labouring under the full influence of his complaint, difficult breathing, hard dry cough, frothy expectoration, extreme languor and debility, indigestion and costiveness. He obtained some relief on the first application of Galvanism, and after a few operations he was enabled to ascend four flights of stairs to his bed room with comparative ease; and the progress he had made during the fortnight of his regular attendance was great. The cough abated, his breathing was relieved, and he expectorated freely. On the third week his digestion was improved, his bowels acted freely, he slept well, was restored to strength, and on the fifth week was perfectly relieved from his complaint. He was galvanized twenty-eight times. Since that period he states, he has enjoyed perfect health, and has not had occasion to take any aperient medicine whatever; and though subsequently he has frequently taken cold from getting wet, he has not had the least tendency to asthmatic breathing.

Urslow Williams, residing at Mrs. Vinks's, 7, Circus, Minorities, middle aged and unmarried, and of a spare habit, appeared sallow and emaciated.—She states, that she was brought to Mr. La Beaume, by a lady who had derived advantage from Galvanism, for his opinion of her case. Bad as it was, Mr. L. thought that he could be of use to her, and she was therefore encouraged to try the application. I saw her soon after, and learned the following particulars from herself.—She said, that for almost the last twenty-five years, she had been constantly ill, and that during the greater part of the time she had been under medical care. She had consulted the most eminent practitioners in town, and had strictly attended to their directions, without receiving any permanent benefit. She stated the following symptoms of her disorder:—loss of appetite, flatulence, acid eructations, sickness, lowness of spirits, coldness of the hands and feet, disturbed sleep, great weakness of the limbs. She had been jaundiced twice, since which she felt great pain in the right side, and violent spasms in the stomach. Her bowels were always confined; and during the whole period of her illness, she had suffered much from irregularity and obstruction. The tongue appeared white and furred, the pulse was feeble, and the skin dry without perspiration. The effects produced by Galvanism were extraordinary. She experienced a most agreeable sensation of warmth after the first and second application, was much exhilarated, and walked home to the Minorities, felt no fatigue from the exertion, slept well, and awoke refreshed. The spasm was re-

lieved, the appetite improved, and she felt generally warm and comfortable. On the third visit she was not so well; she said, the fatigue of walking from the Minories and back again was too much for her. She rested two days to recruit her strength, and after the fourth application of Galvanism she made rapid progress. As I did not see her on the following week, I enquired after her, and Mr. La B. informed me she was convalescent. About a month after she called on Mr. La B. while Dr. S. and myself were there, and stated that she was now perfectly well in *every sense of the word*,—and that she continued to enjoy such a state of health and spirits as she has not had for the last five-and-twenty years,—and that the lady with whom she resides, requested her to say that she will cheerfully confirm her statement of complete recovery, an event which she never expected, having long witnessed her extreme sufferings. She has been galvanized *but six times*, and the only medicines she has had recourse to was a little rhubarb and magnesia, which never before acted on the bowels, but became powerfully purgative after she was galvanized; since the discontinuance of which, she never had occasion for any medicine whatever. Of the efficacy of Galvanism on the secretions of the liver, I have had many proofs in several cases sent to Mr. La B. and in which mercury and the acid bath had failed; I therefore feel no hesitation in recommending it as a safe and beneficial remedy in torpid and obstructed liver, as well as indigestion, nervous debility, and habitual asthma.

During my residence in town, and my occasional attendance on Mr. La Beaume, I was informed of his successful application of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath in an interesting case; and he referred me to the party. Accompanied by a medical friend, I waited on the lady to hear the account of her sufferings and recovery. She stated that she had been extremely ill for some time, and had been attended by two eminent medical men, who had advised her to go into the country to try the effect of a change of air; that she had, on her return home, found herself no better for it. She applied to Mr. La Beaume about the middle of October last, when she placed herself under his care, at which time she was suffering much from a stomach and bowel complaint. Her tongue was always white, furred and parched; she had no appetite, but a constant disposition to sickness, with a sense of rising in the throat, throbbing in the head, great depression of spirits, restlessness, extreme debility, and other symptoms attendant on a disordered state of the digestive organs. The lady had also lost the use of her right leg, from a white swelling of the knee, which occasioned considerable muscular and tendinous contraction, elevated the heel four inches above the ground, and left a very great soreness of the ankle and foot. The pain she described as excruciating, which prevented her from sleeping either night or day. She had therefore taken large doses of opium, combined with calomel, to allay the irritation, and correct the habitual sluggishness of the bowels, from which latter symptom she had suffered much. The ordinary remedies of fomentation, leeches, blisters, &c. were applied to the part without any benefit. Her lameness was extreme, she was obliged to go on crutches for some time;

and being exceedingly enfeebled, could not support herself on them without assistance. The treatment Mr. La B. employed was judicious and effectual. Galvanism was administered for three weeks; and she was at first conveyed to his house in a coach, with considerable difficulty in getting her in and out. The progress she made during the first week was remarkable, every painful symptom was alleviated; and before the third week her appetite, digestion, spirits, sleep, &c. matured into a state of perfect health. This point of the first importance having been obtained, Mr. L. used the air-pump vapour-bath, an apparatus he generally employs on similar occasions with the greatest advantage.—After the first application of the remedy, which was on the third of November last, the contraction was lessened, the heel lowered one inch, and two days after she was enabled to walk across the room without help. After the second operation on the sixth of November, her heel lowered another inch, and she walked out with one crutch only. On the nineteenth of the same month, the bath was repeated with more decided benefit: as perspiration, warmth, and freedom from pain were produced to a greater degree than before, the heel almost touched the ground; she acquired a firmness of step, and walked with a stick only; and on the two subsequent applications the contraction was removed, the heel touched the ground, and she was enabled with ease and comfort to herself, to walk to Southampton-row and back again to her residence, a distance of two miles, without either crutch, stick, or any assistance. Having recovered the use of her leg, feeling no inconvenience from exercise, but an occasional tenderness at the sole of her foot when she walked too far; she had again recourse to the vapour-bath to remove this last symptom of disease, which fully succeeded, and the result was complete success. She stated, that since her recovery, which was about six months ago, she has enjoyed perfect health, and the vigorous use of her leg and foot; and that she will be happy to give every information on her case to any person Mr. L. may refer to her.

The following is an extract of a letter from Dr. Blagborough, an eminent Physician of London, to Mr. La Beaume, dated June 25, 1818, with an interesting case of the successful application of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath.

“After the lapse of fifteen years, I am at a loss to account for how little the real merit of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath is understood. Perhaps, Sir, the public thought, that, as I ceased actively to superintend its use, my opinion of its value was altogether changed. This, Sir, I stated to you, as well as other respectable professional gentlemen, *was not the case*. My opinion respecting its merits, now, soberly and seriously given after much experience, is equal to what it ever was; and I am desirous of availing myself of this opportunity of stating to the public, through you, that the sole reason of my not continuing to patronize its use more actively, was, that through the operation of the *then Patent* and agency of some other circumstances, I was not unfrequently placed in situations a little derogatory to the feelings of a man of education. Having declared thus much, I will now attempt to detail to you, as well as I can,

from recollection, the circumstances of the case of Mr. Temple, the son of Lady Temple, then residing in Brompton Grove, Knightsbridge, than which, in the whole course of my experience, I know nothing of greater practical importance. In the year 1803, Mr. Temple had a most afflicting and constantly excruciating pain in the hip-joint; the application of the air-pump vapour-bath was made with immediate benefit. After the fomentation had been continued the usual time, the exhaustion had not been long put in effect, before the pain seemed to shoot from the hip down the limb, and entirely ceased. About the third day from this, there was a slight recurrence of pain, which submitted to another application, when, to the best of my recollection, it never again returned. The affection was originally occasioned by exposure to cold, while assisting his infant son in flying his kite in a damp meadow:—I ought to add, that it continued many weeks, *nay months*, during which it had rendered him bedrid, though he had had the advice of many eminent men on the occasion. Mr. Anderson, his surgeon, who I believe still resides in that neighbourhood, was in attendance, and I have no doubt, well recollects all the circumstances of the case, which I was frequently urged by Mr. Temple to make known to the public.—I could, if necessary, call to recollection other striking cases; but suffice it, in the words of Dr. Hamilton, with which my mind entirely goes along, to say, ‘*That the mode in which the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath must act, is certainly agreeable to sound theory; and the more it is put in practice, the oftener will facts occur to confirm what I now say.*’

“Perhaps, Sir, my testimony, entirely disinterested, will now be better received.—It only remains, therefore, while I congratulate the public on their being likely to have such a remedy faithfully administered, to caution you to superintend as much as possible the administration yourself.”

DROPSY.—Dr. Tweedie has lately published the following cases to illustrate the efficacy of blood-letting in dropsical affections consequent on scarlet fever:—

J. M., aged five years, was affected with general anasarca (particularly of the face and upper extremities), frequent short cough, with hurried and oppressed breathing. The urine was scanty; pulse 130; skin hot, and the tongue furred. She had passed through a mild attack of scarlet fever about ten days previous to the occurrence of the above symptoms, but had laboured under hooping cough, in a mild form, for nine weeks. Purgatives of calomel and jalap were exhibited for two days without benefit. Four ounces of blood were then taken from the arm, which was a little buffy. She experienced immediate relief, and after four days was convalescent.

R. B., aged five years, eight days after a mild attack of scarlet fever, became affected with general anasarca, short dry cough, oppressed breathing, and scanty secretion of urine; pulse 144, and sharp. A “brisk laxative” was given for two days without any advantage being thence derived, when he was bled to the extent of

five ounces, with immediate and decided relief of the affection of the chest;—the blood was not sized. Two days afterwards the anasarca swelling had nearly subsided, and in another day she was declared convalescent.

M. D., aged fifteen years, about six weeks since, laboured under scarlet fever. After the disappearance of the efflorescence, she became affected with anasarca, which first appeared on the face, and gradually extended over the trunk and extremities. She complained of pain in the left side of the chest, with difficulty of breathing, and cough, accompanied with a sensation of suffocation when she assumed the horizontal posture. These symptoms had existed eight days, when ten ounces of blood were taken from the arm. The following day she was found to be much relieved: a purgative was then given. The next day the cough and difficulty of breathing were nearly gone, and the anasarca much subsided. Four days afterward she was convalescent.

Dr. Tweedie has witnessed other analogous cases in which the efficacy of blood-letting was equally prompt and decisive.

Our readers will bear in mind, that the disease which the doctor terms anasarca, immediately followed scarlet fever; and that the dropsical swellings were attended with inflammatory affection of the viscera of the chest. It is not uncommon for general anasarca to be accompanied with inflammation of the pleura, and sometimes of the lungs, in which cases the loss of blood uniformly proves beneficial; but the point to determine when it can be *safely* resorted to, is a very nice one. We have known cases of general dropsy terminate most favourably after spontaneous bleeding from the nose; which, at the time it occurred, was considered a most unfortunate circumstance. The effects of abstraction of blood on the human system in cases of debility, we believe, is little understood. The action of the absorbent system is generally increased by it; and when the viscera are healthy, it may prove a powerful auxiliary to tonic medicines in anasarca, or dropsy of the extremities. In cases of dropsy of the chest and belly, spontaneous loss of blood has speedily terminated life; and when anasarca is a symptom of general debility from chronic organic disease of any of the viscera, no practitioner who has profited by experience, would have recourse to bleeding; and, indeed, even in cases similar to those which Dr. Tweedie has published, it would be more prudent to attempt to resolve the inflammation by the application of a blister, or blisters, over the chest, and active purgative and sudorific medicines, than by abstraction of blood.

COW POX AND SMALL POX.—Mr. Fosbrooke, a member of the medical profession, in a long desultory communication upon the eruptive diseases which have lately appeared in different parts of the country (termed by some physicians, small pox modified by cow pox, and others, chicken or swine pox) says, that from what he has seen and read of the eruptions, "he is inclined to think the integrity of small pox and *all its varieties*, is broken by cow pox, and modified." As to the assertion, "that the chicken pox does not

occur *generally* in persons who have undergone either of the two diseases, (cow pox and small pox) he had, at the time of writing his remarks, a case of unequivocal chicken pox under his care, long subsequent to cow pox." After he commenced his dissertation, he received from Dr. Jenner some information, which he terms "*ingenious and original*;" from which he selected the following anecdotes for publication.—"When Dr. Jenner was attending the assizes in Gloucester, three years ago, Mr. Justice Holroyd, at an hour of disengagement, requested to speak to him; after a few compliments, the Justice said, 'You must observe how universally my *countenance* is indented; people have been *absurd enough* to say, that small pox cannot be taken twice. I had the disease when a little boy with others; I went when ten years old into a house where small pox was; I took it a second time; and this was the consequence.'—The Marquis of Hertford told Dr. Jenner, that his father had been inoculated by Sir Cæsar Hawkins; and from the eminence of Sir Cæsar, *when a boy*, he went with him on a tour to France; at Rheims he took the small pox, and died. This circumstance threw such a damp over France, that it gave a further check to the practice, which was already distrusted there. Mr. Broomfield, a celebrated surgeon in London, inoculated with small pox matter, Miss Pappendeck, the Duke of Clarence, and Prince Ernest. Miss Pappendeck afterwards went to play at Kensington with the little branches of the Royal Family; caught small pox a second time, and was pitted. Dr. Jenner cautioned the others who had been inoculated from the same thread; but they had resisted it after frequent exposure. Blomberg so often failed, that he gave up small pox inoculation. A Mrs. G. wife of a Solicitor, at Cheltenham, had small pox *five times* (!!!) Mr. Chamberlayne, surgeon, of Clerkenwell, has had small pox twice. Colonel Brysac had it twice severely. Two persons in Mr. J. Angerstein's family were equally unfortunate. The Poet, Campbell, gave Dr. Jenner two cases of secondary small pox, which occurred in one family. Sir William Rowley's son had small pox a second time. Mr. Bagster's child, near Somerset House, inoculated by the late Mr. Sutton, died of secondary small pox." The meaning of all this is, that if small pox itself affords no certain security against a second attack, the occurrence of the disease after cow pox should not prejudice the public against the preventive powers of the latter. If the cases of secondary small pox were as common as those of small pox after vaccination, it certainly would not have that effect; but unfortunately the fact is, that for one case of secondary small pox we meet with three hundred failures of cow pox. The originality and ingenuity of Dr. Jenner's communication, we suspect, will not succeed in reviving the confidence of the public in the preventive powers of vaccination. Our correspondent at Rouen informs us that small pox, after vaccination, is by no means a common occurrence in France, and that the priests are exercising their influence in prejudicing all classes against it. Connected with this subject we received the following letter, since the publication of our last number.

SIRS,—A gentleman, a friend of mine, who had the small pox very fully, through inoculation forty years ago, has lately been afflicted with it again, in consequence of intercourse with a family wherein it prevailed. It is to be observed, that the first time he had it very mild, the last time very severe. By this and other circumstances of the same nature, it appears that we cease, after a certain period of time has passed, to be protected by inoculation, as well as vaccination.

I am, Sirs, Your obedient Servant,

28, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden,

W. WRIGHT,

May 28, 1819.

Surgeon, Aurist to Her late Majesty.

MEASLES.—The following remarks on this disease we received from a very respectable Lady Bountiful, residing in the county of Essex.

“Although there are few persons who are unacquainted with the first symptoms of the measles, it may be satisfactory to some parents to be informed upon the subject.

“The writer will just therefore state, that, with young children, a running from the eyes and nose, accompanied by great heaviness, generally ushers in the complaint. The cough is most violent when the eruption is about to appear. Children of a more advanced age have generally head-aches, less running of the eyes and nose, but perhaps more pain in the eye-lids; and at all ages, frequently a troublesome soreness about the inside of the lips.

“It is a safe precaution, under any of the above symptoms, to give such a dose as shall act pretty briskly upon the bowels, for which purpose the *Basilic powder* is particularly well adapted: about four grains may be given to a child of a year old, and for every year afterwards an additional grain, to the age of sixteen, when (unless the patient is a weakly subject), 20 grains, the dose of an adult, may be administered. The principle cause, however, of anxiety, particularly at this season of the year, is as respects the tendency which it induces to inflammation in the chest; hence the importance of parents watching the first symptoms, and being provided with the first remedy in case of an attack, which, though it may not have arrived at a pitch to baffle human skill, yet soon requires that the person who is under its influence should be reduced to the lowest state of debility; the principal object, therefore, of the writer is to recommend the heads of families, who have the measles in their house, to be provided with blisters; and should their patients complain of soreness in their chests when they cough, no time should be lost in applying the same directly over the part where the pain is felt. This is a most safe, simple, and generally an effectual preventive to further suffering in this respect, provided the disorder is not allowed to gain an ascendancy before recourse is had to the blister, which also, by occasioning a determination to the skin, causes the measles to be thrown out, where all other remedies fail. And so far under such circumstances is the above remedy from being so painful, as it is generally supposed, that when there is a tendency to internal inflammation, the prickling pain of the blister externally is frequently rather a pleasant sensation. The writer had applied one

to the chest of a child which almost immediately had a good effect; but, on the soreness occasioned by the blister beginning to heal, the cough returned, and the child complained of extreme pain in her throat, and repeatedly called out, "Put a blister on my neck!" The writer did so over the windpipe, and from that time she recovered. It may be necessary to apply drawing, instead of healing, ointment for a day, and one drachm of paregoric, with one of ipecacuanha wine, in a cup of water, may be sipped through the day. The patient should be kept warm, though not to an extreme; and it is very advisable, wherever it can be effected, that a careful and judicious person should sit up at least the first night of the eruption's coming out; though, indeed, at this season, for several nights a fire should be kept up, and water kept hot, so that should the legs become cold, a bottle prepared to contain boiling water should be filled, and, rolled up in a flannel, applied to the feet. It is also necessary that something should be kept warm, of which the sick person may drink plentifully; and there is no beverage more refreshing than tea, which should be weak according to the age of the child. Raspberry vinegar in warm water makes a good change, and is particularly proper under cough and fever. Toast sopped in tea, or roasted apples, may be given as food; though the friends of sick persons should not be over anxious to make them eat whilst the complaint lasts.

"About the third day or night, after the appearance of the spots, they begin to turn pale; rather previous to which, a dose of the basilic powder should be again administered, and repeated the next night; and a third time, missing one night between, when most probably the disorder will be entirely removed. At the beginning of the eruptive fever, should there be great restlessness, a few grains of the antimonial febrifuge powder will be found very serviceable. The eyes often suffer much in the measles; it will be found beneficial to bathe them frequently with hot water, by means of a soft sponge, for several minutes at a time. At the commencement of the cough, the patient will feel comfort from drawing in the steam of hot water from a funnel. It may be discovered, whether inflammation is beginning in very young children, by an expression of pain in their countenances when they cough."

"In cases of the failure of the blister to relieve the chest, leeches should, without delay, be applied."

Our medical readers will say that this communication contains nothing new. The treatment recommended by our correspondent is more calculated to prevent mischief on the lungs, &c. than that which is generally adopted. It is an important article, inasmuch as it shews that domestic medicine is sometimes properly conducted by those truly valuable members of the community, whose chief delight is doing good. The diffusion of medical information among the higher classes of society, should induce the members of the profession to proceed on scientific principles. The public is no longer to be misled by technical jargon, or induced to believe, that it is necessary to swallow five or six draughts, and as many pills daily, to subdue

trifling maladies. The state of domestic medicine in this country should convince the College of Physicians of the necessity of a thorough reform, or of adapting their bye-laws to the present state of the medical art, as practised by surgeons and apothecaries. If they persist in protecting only the fee trade, they will soon have the mortification to find domestic medicine will be in advance of them, a circumstance that will prove fatal to the *guinea* trade, and place them as practitioners on a par with their obsolete charter.

PHAGEDÆNIC ULCER.—SIRS,—Should the following case which recently presented itself to me, and which has yielded to the novel mode of treatment as described in the narrative, afford you any interest in its perusal; you will, perhaps, do me the favour to give it insertion in your widely extended and useful publication.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

Royal Dispensary,

ARNOLD THOMAS FAYERMAN.

89, Aldersgate Street.

A few weeks ago a gentleman of property from a western county, paid me a visit for my professional advice in a very distressing complaint. He had been afflicted with a spreading ulcer for near four years, which had seated itself on the left side of the nose, resting its base on the cheek, and stretching itself to the *Os Unguis*. This ulcer might with justice be termed a union of the phagedænic with the *Noli me tangere*; its size that of a half crown, with a rugged but smooth edge, remarkably vascular and exceedingly irritable. It first made its appearance in the form of a small reddish pimple, the surface of which was abraded by the action of the finger nail, from whence a discharge of ichor exuded, and ulceration rapidly followed. The patient's habit was by no means full, but there was a degree of constitutional irritability, which was aggravated by a fretful disposition and a dread of death, which placed his case in the most unfavourable point of view. As the disease speedily put on an imposing front, his medical adviser recommended a journey to town for the purpose of having a consultation; he accordingly visited London about July 1817, and had several interviews with Mr. Astley Cooper, Mr. Travers, and Sir William Blizard. The decoction of sarsaparilla with mezerian was given internally with the alterative pill of Plummer, and a lotion of lime water and calomel applied to the sore, touching the edges with the nitrated quicksilver ointment; still the disease increased, and the constitution became remarkably impaired:—bleeding from the edges of the sore was a common occurrence, and the centre of it was gradually becoming more excavated. When the case was presented to my view, the following were its appearances:—The *Os Unguis*, through which passes the lacrymal duct, had completely exfoliated; the *Os Malæ Superiore*, or upper cheek bone, was exposed; the Septum Nasi laid bare, and the pituitous membrane exhibited to view to the extent of a shilling, and part of the upper and under eyelid was destroyed. Recollecting to have seen a case somewhat similar in the year 1811, which was at that period in the hands of a worthy and respectable friend, an eminent physician of Birmingham, in which he had tried with

the greatest success a local application of *Mel Ærug.*, vulgo Egyptian Honey, with a camel's-hair pencil; I determined to give it a trial, at the same time to exhibit such medicines internally as would best allay the constitutional irritability of the patient, for which purpose I gave as follows—

Extract of hemlock,

Extract of henbane, and

Mercurial pill, of each one scruple, divided into twelve pills, one to be taken every night at bed-time.

As a day medicine, and powerful tonic and antiseptic, I administered the

Peruvian bark (in fine powder) half a drachm, with five drops of nitric acid, and two of tincture of opium, mixed in a sufficient quantity of water to form a draught, one of which was taken three times a day, with rather a liberal use of bottled porter, but no wine or spirit.

The bowels were kept open with a solution of Epsom salt. The ulcer was washed clean every night and morning with a weak solution of lead, by means of a dossil of lint. The Egyptian Honey was then applied night and morning over the whole surface, and the part protected from the air by a black patch. Seventeen days after this plan had been followed up, healthy granulations began to arise in the circuit of the sore, and its internal cavity put on a florid healthy appearance, and a discharge of laudable matter ensued. Some pieces of exfoliated bone came away—the *health* of the patient was also materially amended, and his spirits more animated. Occasional bleeding ensued, but was immediately stopped by the local application. This system of treatment, occasionally slightly varied according to existing circumstances, has been followed for some weeks with the most astonishing success. The healthy granulations have been even too exuberant, and the ulcer, from a foul and sloughing nature, became like a common healthy sore, rapidly circumscribing itself, and the cicatrization in a firm steady state.

SALIVATION.—Professor Van Mons informs us, that he has lately found Hydrosulphuret Iron (produced by sulphur, iron, and water,) to possess, when taken internally, the property of removing the effects of mercury on the gums and salivary glands almost instantaneously; and when applied externally, of curing chronic erysipelatous affections of the skin, and foul and languid ulcers.

CUBEBS.—Surgeon Adams, late of Ceylon, has lately published several cases of gonorrhœa, which satisfactorily prove that this remedy evinces a specific effect in its cure, particularly when exhibited in its early stage. Mr. Hutchinson, a scientific surgeon of London, states, that his own experience leads him to think very highly of it; when administered before the disease is established, and when its internal use is accompanied with a weak solution of the sulphate of zinc, as a *topical* application, it generally succeeds in effecting a cure within two or three days. Mr. Adams observes, that on “referring to his case book he found, that those patients who did not derive any benefit from the cubebs, had previously used

other remedies for the space of eight or ten days. The inflammatory symptoms had subsided, and the disease had so established itself, as not to be under the control of so simple a remedy." Now those surgeons who have given it the most extensive trial in London, say, that it is only in an advanced stage of the disease, when it has nearly run its inflammatory course, and is bordering on gleet, that they have found it beneficial; and this report accords with our own experience. Why Mr. Adams should term it a *simple* remedy, we are at a loss to conjecture. The berries afford a considerable proportion of resin, a pungent essential oil, and a bitter quality, and therefore by no means a *simple* remedy in cases of an acute or inflammatory disease. It assuredly allays morbid irritation of the membranous lining of the urethra, whether attendant on gonorrhoea, gleet, or stricture, and also of the internal surface of vagina. In fluôr albus, chronic indigestion, asthma of elderly people, and general debility attended with dropsical swellings of the legs, the saturated tincture of the cubes has proved highly beneficial, in the dose of two tea-spoonsful two or three times a day in a glass of water; and our experience justifies us in asserting that for those complaints it is the most efficacious remedy that has been discovered.

TEA.—A lady of distinction near Dublin, informs us, that since she has adopted the composition of British herbs, recommended in our 18th Number, as a substitute for tea, she has enjoyed an uninterrupted state of good health. That before she had recourse to it, she was subject to cramp in the stomach, and other distressing symptoms of indigestion, general irritability of the nervous system, and occasionally a great despondency, which she is now persuaded were the effects of foreign tea. We have received similar reports of perfect good health having succeeded the disuse of tea. The composition of British herbs, recommended in our 18th Number, is sold by Mr. Butler, herblst, in Covent Garden, and at No. 1, Clarendon-square, Somers Town.

THE PUMPKIN.—From the seeds of the pumpkin, which are generally thrown away, an abundance of an excellent oil may be extracted. When peeled they yield much more oil than an equal quantity of flax. This oil burns well, gives a lively light, lasts longer than other oils, and emits very little smoke. It has been used on the Continent for frying fish, &c. The cake remaining after the extraction of the oil may be given to cattle, who eat it with avidity.

BEES.—It appears from a communication which Captain Call, a celebrated apiarian, residing at Paplow Hill near Maidenhead, has lately made to the secretary of the British Apiarian Society established in London, that every reasonable degree of success and profit attends the mode of extracting a part of the comb and honey from the hives at successive periods. The weight of honey and comb in twenty-two of Captain C.'s hives, after deducting the weight of the hives, was ascertained, on the 17th of September last, to be 641 lbs.; and from which subsequently, in September and October, 207½ lbs. of honey were extracted at two operations, which is at the rate of 324 lbs. of honey and comb gained from 1000 lbs.

of the contents of the hives, or near 9 lb. 7 oz. from each hive on the average of the whole, or 26 lbs. for each of the eight hives, which were actually deprived of honey. Fifteen of the above twenty-two hives were weighed at five different periods, the collective weight of whose honey and comb was found to be 498 lbs., which last weight increased to 1000 lbs.; and the other four weights being increased in the exact same proportion, they stand as follow—viz. in September 1000 lbs., in October 998 lbs., on December 15th, 751 lbs., on January 25th, 669 lbs., and on March 11th, 521 lbs., of honey and comb; these weights being intended for showing the rate of the bees' winter consumption of honey.

POISONED EGGS.—A small farmer in the village of Heath, near Wakefield, in Yorkshire, lately had several of his hens die, owing, as has since appeared, to a neighbour, into whose garden they had been in the habit of straying, having strewed barley impregnated or mixed with arsenic, in order to destroy them. One of these poisoned hens laid an egg about an hour before she died, which the farmer, unknowing, ate fried in a collop (being then in perfect health,) but he was soon after seized with violent pains and sickness. An experienced medical man, who was called in two hours afterwards, instantly pronounced from the symptoms, that poison had been taken; and immediately administered an emetic and castor oil, by which the patient's life was saved; but he continued ill for several days, and without doubt, it is said, he would have died if medical aid had not been called in. This ought to operate as a caution against this not uncommon yet dangerous mode of ridding ourselves of trespass from our neighbour's poultry. It has excited the surprise of many, that the egg could become so strongly infected with the arsenic before the hen was killed by it. On the discovery of the cause of the farmer's hens dying, his wife cut open the crops of two of those which lately had sickened; and after carefully emptying the crops of all the barley and other matters, and washing them out, sewed them up again, and, strange to say, they survive and seem likely to recover.

SCOURING.—"A farmer having lost, last summer, eight or nine calves from scouring, and having tried every thing recommended as purgatives and astringents without the least effect, found the following composition to succeed in eight cases which were apparently drawing to a fatal termination. Take of powdered rhubarb, two drachms; castor oil, an ounce; kali, prepared, one tea-spoonful; mix well together in a pint of warm milk. If the first dose does not answer, repeat it in 36 or 48 hours. If the calf will suck it will be proper to allow him to do it."—*Farmer's Journal*.

YEW-TREE.—At Mayfield Fair, Sussex, a thoughtless Welchman, named Morgan, an old experienced dealer in cattle and horses, tied a string of the latter animals to a Yew-tree in the Fair-field, where two of them were soon afterwards found dead, having freely eaten of the poisonous leaf; a third quickly after was seized with convulsions, and also died.

THE FLY.—Amongst other difficulties attending the rearing of turnips, observes the editor of that very valuable weekly paper the

Farmer's Journal, we may add the small insect commonly called the Fly, whose ravages in some instances proceed with such rapidity, that nearly the whole of the plant is devoured from the surface of the ground before the husbandman is aware that the depredators have entered the field. Means however may be employed to check, if not to defeat the disastrous operations of this insect; and the plan which he recommends for that purpose is fumigation by brimstone. This he has frequently practised, and generally with success.

The process is as follows:—"Let the farmer carefully watch his turnips as they come up, and whenever the fly makes its appearance, or rather, when its ravages become visible on the rising root, let him take a certain quantity of brimstone, according to the extent of ground infested by the insect, about 2½ or 3 lbs. to an acre; let this be put into a kettle and melted in the turnip field, in a situation most eligible for the wind to carry the fume over the ground; then take any combustible matter calculated to make a considerable smoke, which being dipped in the liquid brimstone, must be strewed all over the field in a state of ignition, and so close together that the fumes of the burning matter may completely cover every part of the ground." The decoction of the bitter almond is more fatal to the lives of insects and worms than any other vegetable or mineral poison. It is made by infusing the bitter almond powder (the ground cakes that remain after expressing the oil,) in warm water for twenty-four hours; 28 lbs. which may be purchased for five shillings, will make forty gallons, a sufficient quantity for a large garden.

PURPLE ENAMEL.—An Italian Clergyman has lately published the following receipt for making the Purple Enamel used in the Mosaic pictures of St. Peter's in Rome:

One pound of sulphur, 1 ditto saltpetre, 1 ditto vitriol, 1 ditto antimony, 1 ditto oxide of tin, minium or oxide of lead 60 lbs.; all mixed together in a crucible, and melted in a furnace: it is next to be taken out and washed, to carry off the salts: after melting in the crucible, add nineteen ounces of rose copper, half an ounce prepared zaffer, one ounce and a half crocus martis made with sulphur, three ounces refined borax, and one pound of a composition of gold, silver and mercury: when all are well combined, the mass is to be stirred with a copper rod, and the fire gradually diminished to prevent the metals from burning. The composition thus prepared is finally to be put into crucibles and placed in a reverberatory furnace, where they are to remain twenty-four hours. The same composition will answer for other colours, by merely changing the colouring matter. This composition has almost all the characters of real stone; and when broken, exhibits a vitreous fracture.—*Philosoph. Mag.*

THE BEET ROOT.—A. M. Sinisen has published, at Copenhagen, an account of a series of experiments which he has made to ascertain the practicability of manufacturing paper from the pulp of beet root. As a proof of the success of his experiments, he has printed his work on paper manufactured from this material.

MILDEW ON WHEAT.—A solution of common salt in water, in the proportion of a pound to a gallon, is much extolled as a

remedy for the mildew on corn. After sprinkling the corn three or four days, the mildew will disappear, leaving only a discolouration on the straw where it was destroyed. The best and most expeditious way of applying the mixture is with a flat brush, such as is used by whitewashers. The operator having a pail of the mixture in one hand, with the other he dips the brush into it, and makes his regular casts as when sowing corn broadcast; in this way he will readily get over ten acres in the day, and with an assistant a great deal more. About two hogsheads of the mixture will suffice for an acre. Wherever the mixture touches, the mildew immediately dies.

STRICTURE.—A merchant's clerk informs us that he was induced to place himself under the care of Mr. Lynch, by the promises he held out in a public advertisement of speedily and effectually curing stricture. On his first visit, Mr. Lynch assured him that the inconveniences he complained of arose from stricture, and that on removing it, which he promised to do in a few weeks, he would enjoy perfect health. He accordingly purchased a packet of his remedies, at the moderate price of five pounds!! Besides a decoction of vegetables, which was to correct his constitution, there were two bottles of oil, one of which was titled *Oriental Oil*, and the other *Botanical Oil*! The oils appeared to differ only in degree of colour, which was artificial. They were in fact common oil, decorated with fine-sounding and no doubt to the ignorant very imposing names. The use of the oils was to grease or lubricate the two excrementitious passages. Stricture, the learned Gentleman contended, is a rigid contraction of a passage, arising from a neglect of nature in greasing the surface; and art should supply the deficiency, instead of attempting to remove the constriction by mechanical means, or the more cruel and unscientific mode of "*caustication*."

The advertiser's *practical* remarks appeared so reasonable as to induce him to give his remedies a fair trial. Having expended all the money he had saved, or was able to borrow of friends, (being to the amount of forty pounds,) he was under the necessity of giving up the remedy entirely, Mr. Lynch not being willing to give him credit. He did not deny that the packet for which he charged five pounds, did not cost him ten shillings; but as credit was never given by *eminent* practitioners, for very *cogent* reasons, he should justly subject himself to the severe animadversions of all the physicians and surgeons of London, if he were to set such an example. The clerk not having received the smallest benefit from the remedies, did not regret his refusal of credit. The idea that he was afflicted with a stricture which in a short time would be productive of the most distressing effects, was so strongly impressed upon his mind, that he immediately applied to a surgeon, who on examination found that it existed only in his imagination!!—The affection which he had attributed to stricture, and his *advertising friend* had confirmed, arose from gravel, and was in the course of a week entirely removed by taking ten drops of the liquor of kali in a quarter of a pint of a decoction of the dried foreign marshmallow

root, twice a day!! Now we beg leave to ask the College of Surgeons of London, if it would not more redound to their honour, to exercise the power which the legislature has given them by prosecuting impostors, than by sending their clerk about threatening surgeons to whom they have granted diplomas, and whose competency to practise the healing art they therefore cannot dispute, with legal proceedings to recover a moiety of their charge for the certificate they gave of their having undergone the necessary examination, to which they gave the fine sounding name of a Diploma. They, and the Fellows of the College of Physicians, should be aware, that on granting the charter, the object of the legislature was to promote medical science for the benefit of the public, and not solely for their aggrandizement.

GOLDEN SPIRIT OF SCURVY GRASS.—This *invaluable* article, the proprietor states, was first discovered by Dr. Bateman; to whose superior knowledge and powers of research, the public is indebted for that incomparable medicine, the Pectoral Drops.—“It may not only be taken at *spring* and *fall*, but at all *convenient* times, or according to *discretion*; for one medicine will not work on the constitutions of *all* people alike. As to its medicinal virtues, they are too numerous to specify in a bill of directions; suffice it therefore to say, that it *opens all* obstructions, *helps* in dropsies, gives *breath* in great stoppages, *purges* the stomach of *wind*. It is good in surfeits, and is highly necessary to take after small pox, for purging away the *relins* of that disorder. For *unseasony* breath it is the best remedy yet found out. It *kills* worms in young and old; helps the gravel in the kidneys: a nurse, by taking, may cure the infant of scabs and breakings out. In most chronic diseases, especially such as proceed from the blood, either by hard-drinking or hard-living. It prevents the teeth from rotting. To conclude, it is beneficial in most salt, sharp distempers. It being well known to the public that this medicine proves beneficial, more or less, in all diseases, the proprietor considers it a duty he owes himself and his country, to caution buyers against counterfeits, which are sent abroad by *unprincipled* men: if they regard their health, he entreats them most earnestly to take notice that each bottle is *sealed with the Doctor's coat of arms*. As it does not operate by stool, it may be taken during the *hardest* frost; for it *arms* the *stomach* and *vitals* against cold, misty and infectious air. The dose is from 50 to 500 drops, in a glass of ale or wine”!!

This *invaluable* discovery we find to be the common spirit of scurvy grass of the shape, disguised by the colouring article sold under the name of dragon's blood!! A quarter of an ounce of horse radish, and a handful of scurvy grass, would be sufficient to make half a dozen bottles!!! With respect to its medicinal virtues we have no hesitation in saying, that the ale or wine which is recommended as a proper vehicle for its exhibition, will prove as beneficial without it as with it.

THE BLOOM OF NINON DE L'ENCLOS.—“This unequalled and inimitable cosmetic,” is prepared by *Mademoiselle Pigout*, of Paris, who for the benefit of the fair ladies of England,

sends a supply regularly to her agents in London. It was the only cosmetic the celebrated Ninon de L'Enclose ever employed, and to its frequent use there can be no doubt that she was indebted for the beauty and wit which rendered her the *admiration* and *boast* of France.—It gave her the *hue*, the *countenance*, the *vivacity* and *fire* of youth, even at an advanced age.“ This fact,” says Mademoiselle Pigout, “is recorded and proclaimed in all the *great* and *fashionable* circles of that polished kingdom.” She adds, “that in 1792 a lady of the first quality did her the favour to lay this invaluable discovery at the feet of the Queen of France;—Her majesty, having no objection to improve her complexion and to partake a little more of the bloom, vivacity, and fire of youth, gave it a trial: the result was so satisfactory, that she was really charmed with her blooming appearance, and no other cosmetic is *now* allowed to approach the royal toilette.” In 1781, Mademoiselle Pigout was *honoured* with the introduction of this most sovereign and unequal bloom into Great Britain, and it was with no less *truth* than pleasure that she learnt from thence, that its pre-eminent powers have now in the great and polite circles banished the use of every other composition that is set forth for the same or similar purposes. That it was to its animating and beautifying effects, that certain high characters are indebted for having been enabled to carry certain resolutions into effect for the *benefit* of their country!!

It cures effectually wrinkles arising from dissipation or old age, *worms* in the skin, and pimples. It braces instead of relaxing the skin, and to this effect the animation it produces in the countenance is to be attributed. It also, by invigorating the vessels of the skin, produces a peculiar bright transparent and blooming appearance, and a vivid one of the eyes: It also softens and renders it deliciously odoriferous, and gives a manly firmness to whiskers and mustaches!!” Such is the *greatness* of its reputation, and the extensiveness of its sale, that some *unprincipled* people have imposed on the public a variety of poisonous trash, under the title of the Veritable Bloom of the immortal Ninon de L'Enclos; and to have the audacity to write the name of Mademoiselle Pigout on it. To prevent those iniquitous proceedings in future, towards the ladies and gentlemen of Great Britain, Mademoiselle has appointed respectable agents in London to vend it.”

On examining this unequalled and inestimable cosmetic, we find it to be composed of white lead, almond emulsion, and essence of lavender. Now of all the compositions that have been offered to the public as cosmetics, this is the most dangerous. The repeated application of lead to the skin of the face, instead of animating the countenance, would assuredly, by paralyzing the nerves, render it inanimate. Such are the baneful effects of lead on the constitution, that the most serious consequences have followed, even the partial use of a weak preparation. What then must be the effect of the repeated application of a lotion strongly impregnated with it? We suspect the article is made in London. The contents of a 4s. 6d. bottle, cost the proprietor about one penny.

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VOL. IV.

OF DR. JAMES CURRIE,

Senior Physician to Guy's Hospital, Lecturer on the Theory and Practice of Physic, Author of "Outlines of the Hepatic Theory of Medicine," "a Treatise on Suspended Animation," a licensed Physician of the Royal College, &c. &c.

It appears, by an article in the Memoirs of eminent Physicians and Surgeons, that this gentleman is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Currie, of Ireland!! and that after receiving the rudiments of his professional education in his native country, he went to Edinburgh to qualify himself to exercise the healing art as a Physician. During his short residence at this University, a fellow student informs us, that he regularly attended the lectures of the different professors, and the practice of the Infirmary. In 1784, he took the degree of M. D. In the inaugural dissertation, which was written on this occasion, he ventured to advance an original idea, which was not likely to excite discussion or opposition, or to require much depth of argument or profundity of reasoning to defend. The new doctrine was, "that the blood is not affected in small pox, and that the assimilating operation of the morbid cause is confined to the skin, the nerves of which acquire the peculiar state favourable to the action and perpetuating of the virus!!" Of this opinion the doctor modestly asserts, the late professor Cullen had the candour to acknowledge the truth; and thus, says he, the pupil, as the *first* proof of his professional acquirements, instructed his master!!! The professor, however, never noticed this new doctrine in his subsequent lectures, or even in his dissertation on the small pox!—The fact is, the professor thought it a pretty flight of fancy, and as such smiled at it; and indeed, who, acquainted with the effects of the small pox virus on the system, could have kept his risible muscles quiet on hearing such nonsense? The smile was taken for a mark of approbation: to the mind of a young author, inflamed with a laudable ambition, trifles light as air are strong as proofs of holy writ. There is not an old woman in the kingdom who would have advanced such an absurdity, that the blood is not affected by the matter of small pox. It is clearly conveyed to the mass of blood by the absorbents of the part to which it is applied; and that the pustules, in the first instance, arise from distension of blood vessels, and that the matter is afterwards separated from the blood, must be obvious to every person capable of observation, who has seen one case of the disease. The doctor's professional abilities were not put to the test by a discussion of the subject of his thesis. The examiners being his masters, could not consistently reject it, or deem the author unworthy of the high honour of a doctor's degree in medicine. He had complied with the laws of the University in attending the lectures for the stipulated period;

and at this school it is well known that the teachers are seldom disposed to deal rigorously with their pupils; besides, by what is termed plucking a candidate, the teachers participate in the disgrace. The case is, Professor Cullen, who was disposed to favour every theory that gave to the nervous system an importance in the animal economy, really did smile at the absurdity of the candidate's hypothesis. The candidate, we are told, ably defended his new opinion. Every possible effect was given it by an emphatical delivery; and so satisfied were the professors of the ingenuity of this *original* idea, that no discussion ensued. The honour to which the candidate aspired was consequently granted, and the fees were most graciously received. Having now finished, as the learned doctor supposed, his *professional* education, he directed his views to tropical regions, as the most likely to afford a *proper* field for the display of his talents, and to reward him for the indefatigable *labour* with which he had pursued his studies.

In order to carry this noble view into execution, viz. that of settling as a physician in Bengal, he condescended (from a most laudable motive of economy) to accept of the appointment of *surgeon* to an Indiaman. Unfortunately for the Europeans settled in that part of India, the motion of the ship, the confinement of his cabin, and the diet, so disordered his general health, that he thought it prudent totally to relinquish the grand speculation. Previous to the adoption of the resolution to visit Bengal, his biographer (who obtained his information from the most authentic source) tells us, that the doctor "had not formed any notions on the importance of the liver and its functions, as the great depurator of the constitution, the source of its irregularities, and most of the maladies that affect the body. These opinions had entered not into his practice; but during his *experience* on board the Indiaman, a new light broke in upon him, which completely changed the ideas of the causes, nature, and treatment of diseases which he had acquired at the Edinburgh school, and gave a new turn to his *medical* opinions!" "Whoever," says he, "contemplates the liver, the very large size of the organ, and its *extensive* and *complicated* circulation, must, on reflection, conclude that it is intended by nature for other and more important purposes, than supplying the mere secretion of that excrementitious fluid, termed the bile. The more he examines it, the more will he be convinced of its *high* consequence in the animal economy, and that on the regularity of its functions the health of the system *materially* depends. In the tropical climates *popular* feelings as fully impress the truth of this, and on every indisposition they look to the state of this organ as the criterion to go by, and their practice is regulated accordingly"!! Immediately after giving up his naval practice, the doctor settled in Northampton, where he soon obtained the appointment of physician to the county infirmary. The *guinea* trade not proving so productive as the doctor had anticipated, in consequence of the stupidity of the inhabitants in not duly appreciating his talents, or perhaps not fully comprehending his luminous *hepatic system of medicine*, the doctor determined to remove to London, the citizens of which being more enlightened, he conceived it would of course afford a proper place for

the promulgation of his splendid hepatic theory. He soon afterwards was appointed assistant physician to Guy's Hospital, and, in order that he might not be molested by the College of Physicians in his grand scheme of *enlightening* his fellow-creatures as to the causes of all the maladies that torment them in this world of trial, he obtained a licence, from the College of Physicians, to authorise him to practise in *simple cases* of disease within its jurisdiction. He then started a carriage, which, for the sake of consistency, and of giving real importance to his system, the body of it was painted of a *liver* colour; and calomel being the sovereign specific, instead of his armorial bearings, it was decorated with the letter C, because it stood both for *Currie* and *Calomel*. Such originality is the gift of few, and is an indisputable evidence of a superior mind—a mind admirably qualified to unravel the animal machine, in order to ascertain the causes of disease, and to found thereon a rational system of medicine.

On the resignation of Dr. Saunders, Dr. Currie was appointed physician in ordinary to Guy's Hospital. He now commenced a course of lectures on the theory and practice of medicine, with the view of giving publicity to his *hepatic theory of diseases*. His "*original opinions*" failed to excite enthusiasm among those pupils who were, by repeatedly urgent importunities, induced to attend his lectures. What with yawning, coughing, snoring, and other symptoms of restlessness, or rather of enough, the doctor's eloquence was so drowned, that little more was heard than *hepatic derangement*—hepatic irritation. When his voice predominated, which it generally did when he came to what was termed the pithy part of his theory, we found him asserting that calomel, dulcified by ablution in lime water, is a *chologue*, the *only* chologue that had been discovered. That calomel thus corrected, chologued the biliary ducts—that it took a seat near the pylorus, to chologue the biliary ducts!!

A system on a similar plan had been broached a few years before "the light of the hepatic theory broke in upon the doctor's mind," by a clergyman of the name of Barclay. That Gentleman, in a dissertation on the gout and other complaints, boldly asserted that the liver was placed in the body to produce disease, for the purpose of punishing man for intemperance and dissipation. That the effects of all vicious indulgencies or excesses were received by the liver, and by it ramified over the body. That the bile, when the body was erect, gravitated into the feet, where it soon became putrid, and excited the peculiar inflammation termed gout. That when the body was in a horizontal position, the bile was equally diffused over it, occasioning a variety of disorders, particularly of the stomach and the brain. With this theory was connected a nostrum, on the composition of which the reverend promulgator was less explicit; he merely contended that it effectually cured gout, indigestion, rheumatism, and nearly all the diseases to which man is liable, by carrying off that tormenting secretion of the liver—the bile. The parson's theory made converts; and in his list of patients who fancied they had derived benefit from the aperient effects of his nostrum, were the names of the late Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, and several noblemen!! In consequence

of a disagreement between the proprietors of the nostrum; the composition of the wonderful specific transpired, which soon proved fatal to its reputation, and the Right Reverend and Right Honorable Patronizers were ashamed of having given their countenance to such a bare-faced imposition,—the basis of the pills being aloes and emetic tartar, the latter of which was rendered inert by prepared kali! The result of this speculation was unfavorable for Dr. Currie's hepatic theory, the pupils and the public considering it to be parson Barclay's empirical doctrine, *in a more scientific dress*. The pupils who had attended one course of Mr. Cline's lectures on anatomy and physiology, could not be persuaded that a viscus so indolent as the liver, was of that importance in the animal economy as the learned doctor contended. So attached was the doctor to his own opinions, that he attributed his failure in establishing them partly to a misconception of the principles, and partly to a want of liberality and judgment in those who viewed them in a different light. He accordingly published an outline of his theory, that he might give it further publicity, by advertising the work in the public prints.—In this production he promised to favour the profession with a full elucidation of the system; but although twelve years have elapsed it has not appeared, and we are fearful the analysis which has been given of it in a certain respectable review, will not expedite its appearance in print, if he has not been induced to consign the manuscript, as Dr. Pew of Sherbourne says, of certain works on vaccination, to the tomb of all the Capulets. The outlines had the effect of alarming Dr. Saunders, who pretended to devote his whole time to repairing the livers of Asiatic Europeans!! Supposing that there was enough in the pamphlet to attract the attention of those, generally speaking, wealthy hypochondriacs, he immediately started one in opposition to it. The outlines had the effect of opening the doctor's eyes, with respect to the *variety* of the diseases that tropical climates produced in the liver, and the *baneful* effects of calomel on *many* of them. He *suddenly* discovered that calomel, which he had been in the habit of prescribing indiscriminately in all chronic affections of the liver for nearly fifty years, was a dangerous medicine, rendering soft livers more soft, and hard ones more hard!! That it injured materially the general health of Asiatic Europeans in particular, often producing scrofulous ulcers and swelling and incurable rheumatism; the meaning of which was, that much judgment and *long* experience were absolutely necessary to determine the cases in which it would prove beneficial, and in which it would have a contrary effect. The doctor's opinions were industriously circulated through the medium of the public prints, and had the effect of prejudicing the unthinking Asiatic Europeans against the Currean system; but, by medical men, who were aware of the "tricks they were playing," they were totally disregarded.

Dr. Unwins, (to whose independant and judicious criticisms on medical works the profession is greatly indebted,) in the oration he delivered on modern medicine at an annual meeting of the medical society, made the following very pertinent remarks on the hepatic theory of diseases:

" In respect to that theory which regards the liver as the *primum mobile* of every thing of a morbid nature, and the consequent practice founded upon these hepatic views, I have often thought that when the mania has fully subsided, our successors will find it difficult to reconcile our boasted freedom from the influence of prevailing doctrines, with our passive and practical acquiescence in that system which hepatism has pronounced to be good, and has commanded the medical world to bow to and to obey. Turn up the great lobe of the liver, say the champions of this sect, and you will find diseases lying as thick as ants in a mole-hill which has been disturbed by the scythe of the mower. This is the real Pandora's box, the origin and cause of all diseases; the something which if you can regulate, you can controul disease; if not, disease will bid defiance to all your remedial endeavours! Do you see a child dying with watery head? What can possibly have produced the derangement and the approaching death, but something wrong in the liver? Is the disorder *tic douloureux*, or head ache, or apoplexy, or epilepsy, or madness, or blindness; see to it that the liver is in a proper state before you either think of causes or dream of cure. To what other sources than obstructions in the liver can we attribute those affections which have been referred, but erroneously, to primary disorders in the chest? Does the blood find a difficult transmission through the lungs?—such difficulty must have been first experienced by the liver. Are these tubercles or ulcerations, or asthmatic conditions, observable in these organs? How can such tubercle, or ulcer, or asthmatic affections, have originated without the liver having planted their seeds, and regulated their growth? Do we find inflammatory conditions, aneurismal dilations, organic obstructions in the heart and its great blood-vessels? Who shall pretend that ossification, that obstruction, that dilation, can take place, unless through the agency of the liver? Stomach and bowel derangements, would our theorists say, are still more obviously and unequivocally our own. Concede this to us, and at the same time observe how intimately connected such ventricular states are with the origin and decline of many other morbid affections, and the inference must be, that all these maladies are in reality and effect a disordered liver. Rheumatic inflammation, for instance, may or may not be an inflammation seated in a membranous fascia; but whether it be or be not, it is the liver which has transmitted the blood, charged with the powers to create the local disturbance. Again, an individual is attacked with what you please to name gout; how frequent it is to observe such attack alternating with states in which the liver is undeniably affected in its functions; therefore do our hepatic logicians infer, gout is resident in the liver. Multiform and various to be sure are the disordered irritations to which the kidneys and connected parts are obnoxious. The urine, instead of being poured out from its glands of secretion with all its healthy produce and principles, is sometimes found loaded with a vast proportion of saccharine matter; but it is needless to amuse yourself with fine-spun theories of the *quo-modo* of such phenomenon: it is further loss of time to aim at ascertaining the different qualities and ingredients of

calculary formation, or try to find out the *modus operandi* of lithic concretion:—it is all, all done by the liver; and looking at any thing less than the liver, we merely investigate incidental effects, instead of being more sensibly and more profitably engaged in raising our contemplation to the source of every thing.”—“Have I, Gentlemen, drawn a caricature portrait of this great liver leviathan? Certain it is, that I have not so far disfigured the likeness in the delineation, but that the portrait must be universally recognized; and I shall now draw a little more upon your indulgence, by saying a few words respecting the origin and prevalence of this *hepatic* hypothesis.

“At the time when the Edinburgh School of Medicine became of paramount authority through the whole of Britain, Dr. Cullen was appointed to the principal medical professorship in that university, and in the system of medicine which he published, proclaimed his partiality to the doctrines of Hoffman, in fibrous debility, as explanatory of disordered states: instead therefore of vitiated fluids and corrupt humours, formerly the cant of the day, all became now atony, spasms, tonics, and corroborants. The great rival of Cullen, Dr. John Brown, did very little more than confirm these fibrous notions, although he so very materially altered the language in which they were conveyed, and aimed at simplifying the sources from which the debility proceeded, and the consequent indications of treatment. Eight-tenths of all the maladies incident to man, were, in this sweeping code of medical principia, referred to sheer weakness or deficient excitations, and all medicine was mere stimulation; the lancet was denounced as an instrument of destruction, evacuations were proscribed upon pain of death, and all organic affections from the crown of the head to the sole of the foot were viewed and treated upon the bold and broad principle of general excitation.

“It soon, however, became evident that debility and disease are not quite such simple states and requirements as these doctrines taught us to believe, and that local irritations and organic conditions demand some cognizance both in pathology and practice. Now then, by a kind of re-action, came into play and repute the visceral notions: and the only difficulty was to determine the particular organ to fix upon as the root of the evil: the largest and one of the most important of all the viscera, namely, the liver, naturally put in its claim for priority of consideration, and was soon voted into the vacant chair. *Hepaticism* (bilious doctrines) henceforth ruled the roast. Peruvian bark, opium, steel and all kinds of tonics and specifics, were pushed far away in the back ground; and whether an infant was dying of water in the head, or an adult was enduring the agony of gout in the great toe,—no other part of the frame, excepting the liver, had any share or lot in the matter.”

The doctor's remarks on the Abernethian system, which he terms a modification of the hepatic theory, we have given in our biographical sketch of the founder.

Had Dr. Currie followed the example of Parson Barclay, by connecting an infallible nostrum with his theory, it, no doubt, would have succeeded with the public. As a promoter of the *guinea*

trade we suspect it is so far dead, that no attempt to resuscitate it by a popular elucidation (of which the doctor still talks much and often) will succeed.

About three years since, the doctor published a small tract on Apparent Death and the Means of Resuscitation. As soon as we saw it announced, we purchased a copy for the purpose of giving the substance of it in this work; but, to our great disappointment, we found his *novel* instructions, &c. to differ only in words to those which appear in the 9th edition of the Medical Guide, published ten years ago, to which we suspect the doctor is indebted for his *original* ideas on this subject. In private practice the doctor is little known, and in his hospital career we have not heard of his having made any lucky hit, or of his treatment on hepatic principles having proved more successful in the cure of diseases than the Barclean system, or the Gileadean system, broached by the proprietor of Gilead house, near Liverpool. The doctor's biographer tells us, that "his prescriptions are of a bolder, and a more active combination than most of his brethren, and possess less of that milk and water timidity which marks rather the hand of the journeyman than the master, and which looks to the efforts of nature as paramount to every thing else—an opinion calculated only for indolence and ignorance." He adds, that "the doctor has eminently shown acuteness of perception, and a *peculiar* and *extended* turn for observation; that he has given a new system of medicine, and changed the practice of late years in the metropolis"!!! This specimen of the impartiality of living biography confirms the justness of the remark of a high-bred physician, that it is highly improper to publish any thing of a man by way of a biography during his life-time.

AN APOTHECARY *versus* A PHYSICIAN.—It has lately been an uniform practice with a certain class of *regular* physicians (as they modestly denominate themselves), on being called in to the assistance of the attending apothecary, to condemn his practice, and by insinuations to prejudice the heads of the family against him. If experience be the proper test of professional knowledge, (and without it, what is all the theory of the schools?) who is so competent to exercise the healing art as the surgeon-apothecary? His opportunities of acquiring *practical* information are assuredly very superior to those of the physicians of the English universities. He traces the rise and progress of the disease through its various stages, while the physician has in general only the opportunity of observing it when it has considerably advanced, and of course when its first symptoms have subsided. He is again consulted in twenty cases where the physician sees but one, unless he be one of the very few who enjoys extensive confidence. Besides the important advantage of a greater share of experience, he has the no less important one of being acquainted with the quality and component parts of the articles he employs to subdue disease, and with the characters of the local diseases that belong to the province of the surgeon, a knowledge of which a physician considers derogatory to his dignity!! These considerations have had their operation on the minds of thinking persons,

who during indisposition have preferred the attendance of an experienced surgeon-apothecary to that of an unexperienced physician; and it was no doubt a conviction of this fact that induced the legislature to regulate the education of apothecaries, so as to place them, in regard to privileges and general practice, on an equal footing with the Fellows of the Royal College themselves, and even a step higher than the licentiates, who are only authorised to practise in minor cases of diseases, as appears by the reason the fellows have uniformly given for not admitting them members of their body.—It is well known to the apothecaries of London, that an understanding exists, as it were by agreement among many physicians, to discountenance the attendance of apothecaries at the houses of patients, to prejudice the public against them by mean insinuations; and in order more effectually, as one of them emphatically observed, to drive them behind their counters, to recommend their patients to take their prescriptions to the shop of a chemist in preference to that of an apothecary. If physicians were better acquainted with the nature of diseases and the effects of medicine than surgeon-apothecaries, their conduct would meet with the approbation of every good man—but instead of this being the case, their opposition assuredly arises from the most despicable of motives, that of benefiting themselves. Physicians of the old schools have long viewed with a jealous eye the progress of medical surgery, which to them has of late years advanced to an alarming extent.—Modern improvements and discoveries in medicine of any importance having originated with surgeons and apothecaries, has been to them a source of great mortification.

The general diffusion of medical knowledge has enabled the public to appreciate the labours of the surgeon-apothecaries, and to distinguish the man of science from the pretender. They are aware that the man, conversant with every department of medicine, and who has acquired his knowledge of diseases at the bed-side of patients, is more entitled to confidence than the physician who has acquired his information by reading, and who does not even profess to be acquainted with pharmacy, chemistry, or surgery—assuredly the most important branches of medicine. His fort is in what is termed *pathology*, and even in this department he can no longer boast of a knowledge superior to that of modern surgeon-apothecaries. Hence arises the illiberal conduct of a set of physicians towards apothecaries; and that they have any other object in view than to keep up the trade of fees, we deny. The domineering spirit of these *philosophers*, and their desire to crush the surgeon-apothecaries, (which we are sorry to see extending to the licentiates,) cannot be more satisfactorily proved than by the recital of the case of Mr. Morris, surgeon-apothecary, and Dr. Mackinnon, which was lately tried in the Court of King's Bench for gross slander. In this prosecution, the physician did not even attempt to justify his conduct, and his brethren thought it most prudent to remain silent, although the doctor was contending as much for their benefit as his own. Mr. Morris is entitled to the thanks of the surgeon-apothecaries of this country for his manly spirit in not allowing (as others in more extensive practice have) his professional character to be

assailed with impunity: he has thus set a laudable example to his own respectable body, who should jointly defend themselves against unjust usurpation; if this were done, their enemies, who are alike enemies to the progress of science, would soon see the necessity or policy of treating them with that respect, to which, from the footing on which he is placed by the justice of the legislature, they are entitled. Physicians should be aware, that proceedings, which are likely to excite inquiry into their pretensions to a superior knowledge of the healing art, must be, in the present state of *legitimate* medicine, highly impolitic. The following is the case to which we have alluded:

Mr. Binning opened the pleadings. The declaration stated, that the plaintiff being employed in the business of an apothecary and accoucheur, and having for many years borne the character of a person well skilled and qualified for such businesses, and having carried on such businesses with great profit and advantage, the defendant, contriving and intending to injure him in his said business, had wilfully, maliciously, and without any probable cause, uttered the slanderous words, of and concerning the attendance of the plaintiff on the child of a Mrs. Bolter, to the effect following, namely:—"that the child was murdered by giving it calomel, &c." by reason of which slander the plaintiff was greatly injured in his profession; his former patients having ceased to employ him. The defendant pleaded the general issue—not guilty. The damages were laid at 5000*l*.

Mr. Scarlett stated the plaintiff's case, and pointed out to the jury the nature of the serious injury of which his client had to complain. *Preservation of character was of the highest importance to every professional man, but more particularly to a MEDICAL man, whose existence depended solely upon the good opinion entertained of him by society.* The plaintiff had to complain of the most serious injury that could befall a man in his station of life; namely, the total destruction of his professional character, by the slander uttered by the defendant. Mr. Morris, the plaintiff, had for many years carried on the business of an apothecary and man-midwife, with great reputation to himself, and advantage to the public. He had had a numerous connection, and was considered a man of great respectability. The defendant is also a gentleman of the same profession, though in a different branch; and is a man likewise of character and respectability—he is a *doctor of medicine*. It happened that the plaintiff had been called in to attend the family of a tradesman named Defoe, some of whose children were in a state of ill health. One of them had died; and another, being in a dying state, Dr. Mackinnon was desired by the parent to give his advice, which he did; but on that occasion he used language, with respect to the plaintiff, which reflected in an unbecoming manner upon his professional skill, and was calculated to do him irreparable injury. The case, however, of the plaintiff rested more particularly upon the slander uttered by the defendant concerning him, to Mrs. Bolter, the person named in the declaration. About the same time that the plaintiff attended the family of Mr. Defoe, he was called in to minister to the sick child of Mrs.

Bolter. The child had been afflicted with the measles, and becoming dangerously ill, the plaintiff was sent for; and he gave it such medicines as in his judgment seemed best adapted to remove the disorder. The child, however, got worse, and the mother having procured a ticket from the Western Dispensary, to which the defendant was physician, the latter attended the infant; and upon enquiring who had previously prescribed for the child, and what medicines it had received, he was informed that the plaintiff had attended, and had prescribed powders, some of which were shown to the defendant; upon which he uttered highly offensive language concerning the plaintiff, and said that the medicine given was poison. On a subsequent occasion, when the child died, he said to the mother, "the mercury has destroyed the roof of your child's mouth, the palate is destroyed, your baby is murdered with mercury." Such was the nature of the slander of which the plaintiff had to complain—slander which was destructive not only to his reputation, but blighted all his future hopes of existence. If the case was made out in evidence, no damages that the jury could give, would more than compensate the plaintiff for so serious an injury. After commenting at considerable length upon the serious complexion of the case, the learned counsel proceeded to call the following witnesses:—

James Defoe, a carpenter, residing in Hungerford-market, stated, that in June, 1817, Mr. Morris, who is an apothecary, at the corner of Castle-court, Chandos-street, Covent-garden, attended a sick child of his. The child died; and another of his children being affected with the same disease immediately after, he sent for Dr. Mackinnon of the Adelphi, for his advice. As soon as the latter had seen the child, he said he wished witness had sent for him sooner, but assigned no reason then for the observation. Afterwards, when the second child died, he said, that if he had been sent for in the first instance he would have saved both the children, or he would have forfeited his existence. The defendant had attended the second child two days before it died, and in that interval had seen it six or seven times. Witness had known Mr. Morris sixteen or seventeen years, and had employed him before. He had previously lost two other children under the care of the latter. He had lost a fifth child under the care of Dr. Mackinnon himself, but it was not afflicted with the same disease as the others. Witness had ceased to employ the plaintiff in his family, not solely in consequence of what the defendant had said, but as well in consequence of his having lost four children under the care of the former.

William Sidney Jones, shopman to the plaintiff, remembered making up some medicines for Mrs. Bolter's child, which the plaintiff had attended. After the child died, he remembered a conversation between the plaintiff and the defendant, the subject of which was a coroner's inquest, which was about to be held on the body of the child. In that conversation the defendant offered to write a letter to the coroner, assuring him that there was not the slightest ground of imputation upon Mr. Morris's medical skill, and that the medicines given to the child were proper for its disease. Such a letter was afterwards sent by the beadle of the parish to the coroner.

Elizabeth Bolter stated, that her husband was a bargeman, residing at Hungerford-stairs. In July last, Mr. Morris attended her in her lying-in, and she was perfectly satisfied with his conduct. In the month of December following, she had a child taken ill of the measles. No medical person then attended, but shortly afterwards the child having a sore throat and mouth, she sent for Mr. Morris, who attended it from the 6th to the 12th of December. She had some powders of him; the child got worse and worse, and she requested him to attend every day. He told her, however, that there was no danger; but not being satisfied with him, she made interest to get a letter to the Dispensary, and, in consequence of that, Dr. Mackinnon came. He came up stairs swearing at the darkness of the staircase. When he got to the bed-side, he shewed the child his watch, in order to ascertain whether it could see. He then took some barley-water in a spoon, and gave it to the child. He then asked who attended the child, and witness told him it was *Doctor Morris*. The defendant asked whether it was Dr. Morris of Parliament Street. She replied, "No, it was Dr. Morris of Chandos Street." Upon which he said, "*Doctor* be hanged, he is only an *apothecary*." Witness then shewed him some of the powders the child had been taking, and the defendant said it was all poison, and that her child was entirely destroyed with calomel. Witness asked him what calomel was, and he said it was mercury, and that mercury had destroyed her child; that it had destroyed the bones of the head, the palate, and the root of the tongue; and that he could have saved the child if he had been sent for sooner. He added, "Go where I will, he (meaning the plaintiff) serves the children all alike. He has murdered your child." The child died next day about one o'clock, and when the defendant called, he looked at it, and taking hold of one of its hands, said, "It is a fine noble child, the *cursed* fellow has *wilfully murdered* him with mercury." He told her that if Mr. Morris sent in his bill, she was not to pay it, for he had been speaking to some of the faculty, and was ready to come forward and make oath before a court and jury, that her child had been murdered. He said he would see her righted, and desired that he should have the plaintiff's bill when it was delivered, and be sure not to pay it; and added, that he would attend her or her husband at any hour of the day or night, or any of her family, if he was sent for. Her nurse was present at one of these conversations, her husband at another, and a fellow-lodger at a third. Witness not being satisfied, desired a coroner's inquest to be held on the body of her child, and demanded justice. She had told several people that Dr. Mackinnon had said her child was murdered. The day the coroner's inquest was to be held, the defendant sent for her down stairs. He said he would not come in, because there should be no one present but themselves. He said "What are you going to do at the Globe? (the public house where the coroner was to sit.) What is all this work about?" Witness said it was about what he had told her, namely, that her child had been murdered. He asked what was the meaning of it? "What good will you do? This is what I get by attending poor people's children." Witness had never employed the plaintiff since.

Hannah Law, a fellow-lodger of the last witness; Mary-Ann Robinson, her nurse; and Richard Bolter, her husband, who had been present at different parts of these conversations, corroborated her statement in every particular.

Mr. Honoratus G. Thomas, a surgeon, formerly in partnership with Mr. Cruickshanks, was called to prove that he had examined the child after its decease, and that its death was produced by a different cause from that assigned by the defendant, but

The learned Judge said there was no occasion to receive such evidence. The plaintiff alleged that the words were falsely spoken, and the defendant by his plea did not say that they were true.

The case of the plaintiff being closed,

Mr. Gurney (with whom was Mr. Denman) addressed the jury on behalf of the defendant. He admitted, with his learned friend, Mr. Scarlett, that nothing was of more importance to a professional man than character. On the part of his client he was instructed to suggest nothing that could in the slightest degree detract from the plaintiff's character. Both the plaintiff and defendant were respectable men in their stations in life. The jury could not fail to observe, it was not pretended that on any occasion the defendant and plaintiff had had any quarrel or misunderstanding. Nothing of that kind was suggested. It was impossible, therefore, to impute any malicious motive to the defendant. Neither was it possible to ascribe any mercenary motives to his conduct, because both gentlemen were engaged in totally distinct branches of their profession; and it was not to be supposed that they had any jealousy of each other, considering the rank in life of the patients whose employment the plaintiff was supposed to have lost. The defendant instructed him (Mr. G.) to declare that his words had been misunderstood and misrepresented; and the strongest proof of the truth of this statement was, the promptitude with which he stated to the Coroner's Jury, that there was really no blame imputable to Mr. Morris. There was no proof that the plaintiff had sustained any damage in consequence of the slander; for there was no other person who ceased to employ him, except Mr. Defoe; and, according to his own account, he had not ceased to employ him solely in consequence of what the defendant had said. Considering therefore all the circumstances of the case, the smallest damages would be more than a full compensation for any injury the plaintiff might have sustained.

The jury, under the learned judge's direction, who cautioned them against any feeling incompatible with discretion and moderation, found their verdict for the plaintiff. Damages—Five Hundred Pounds.

FUMIGATION.—SIRs,—By inserting the following observations on the purification and ventilation of confined apartments and bed-chambers, in your Journal, it may be of public utility at this afflicting moment, when typhus is so general in this city.

In one of the Lectures delivered by M. Voclan, Professor of Chemistry to *L'Ecole de Medecin* at Paris, during last winter's course, when treating of the above subject, he strongly recommended a so-

lution of lime-water to be placed in the confined chambers of hospitals, prisons, and in those of private dwellings, where imperfect ventilation arises, either for want of a chimney, or windows: two or three pieces of fresh burned lime are to be put into an earthen or wooden vessel, a little water is to be thrown on the lime until slacked; when this is effected, the vessel is to be filled with water, and the lime stirred, the greater the circumference of the vessel at top the better; the solution is then to be placed in the chamber; the scum that appears on the surface after a few hours, may be removed, and the solution agitated; by this means it may answer for several days.

The necessity of inhaling pure air to promote health is universally admitted, and clearly demonstrated by the comparative appearance of the peasantry with the population of large cities; the air expelled from the lungs at each expiration, bears the characteristic qualities of carbonic acid gas, is incapable of maintaining life or supporting combustion, and contains the subtle poison of the disease with which people are infected, and is often the conductor of contamination. Carbonic acid gas is from fourteen to sixteen times heavier than atmospheric air; in consequence of its superior specific gravity it occupies the lower part of rooms or chambers, and from its elasticity and cohesion, it adheres with a degree of force to the feet of the bed head and the walls. Lime-water has a strong affinity for this gas, and absorbs a considerable quantity of it, which unites with the lime and forms the carbonate of lime;—common water will absorb its own bulk of this gas at a low temperature, and might be employed where lime is not to be had.

The writer of the above has found the most speedy and effectual mode of purifying a room is by lighting a fire, where the presence of a chimney affords the opportunity; to this means he had frequent occasion to recur on the Continent, where necessity obliged him to take quarters in a chamber, with an impure atmosphere and disagreeable smell, arising either from the dampness of the bedchamber, and the want of its being slept in, or the too frequency of sleeping in it, and the want of ventilation.

In Portugal very few chambers have chimneys; the inhabitants, to purify their sleeping rooms, place on a flag or tile in the room, or put into an earthen vessel, a quantity of hot wood ashes, which they take from their fire-place, supplying more hot ashes as the former grows cold, leaving the door and the windows open: in this country, turf half burned might be used for the same purpose in rooms where the chimney is stopped.

Effective ventilation depends on the admission or the passage of a current of atmospheric air through a chamber, entering at one extremity through one or more apertures, and passing out in an opposite direction.

In summer, when the weather is warm, and the air tranquil, and no wind, ventilation in this way is imperfect; the air entering the windows or room door only by pressure, dilutes the poisoned air, but does not remove it. This is the period that ventilation, by means of the chimney, will be found most effectual; it is evident how it is

effected, in the column of air in the chimney and the body of air in the room being of equal density; the pressure upwards and downwards are the same, consequently there is no current in the chimney; but when combustion takes place in the grate, caloric is liberated and unites with the air in the chimney, by which union it becomes specifically lighter, and ascends with velocity to a higher region; the cold air of the room rushes in to supply its place and prevent a vacuum, which becomes heated in turn, and passes off, and so on until the body of air the room contained at the time the fuel was ignited is totally consumed, which takes place in the space of fifteen minutes. From the heat diffused through the room, the attraction of cohesion of the gas becomes weakened or destroyed by its uniting with caloric, for which it has a great affinity, as I before stated; it then readily mixes with the current, and may be seen moving towards the chimney in common with the air of the room (for wind is air put in motion); on this principle it may be clearly seen with what ease a chamber may be kept free from the accumulation of this air which is so pernicious to health.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

Waterford, July 2d, 1819.

THOMAS POWER.

DEAFNESS.—Chemicus, with all due submission to the superior abilities of the profound and acute aurist, Mr. Wright, begs to submit his "plain unvarnished tale," and, the still more plain and well authenticated fact, stated by Chemicus, in the 38th Number of the Gazette of Health, without any invidious intention, of detracting from the skill, judgment, and ability of Mr. Wright, whose known and justly acknowledged merit, no doubt, has raised him to the distinguished and honourable situation in the medical world, which he enjoys. Far be it from Chemicus, he again repeats, to vilify or insinuate, unmerited detraction from the merit of a man, who is entitled to so much honour from his grateful countrymen; though Chemicus declares, that he did not know, when he wrote the letter in Number 38, that so valuable a man as Mr. Wright, the aurist, existed, either in this world or any other. Having premised thus much, Chemicus will commence with the following partial answer to Mr. Wright, reserving the remainder for another opportunity.

SIR,—In your letter at present under consideration, you first state (it being advisable for me to commence where you begin) that a gentleman of Lincoln's Inn advised a solution of *bay salt* as a cure for deafness; in your reply you had never found it useful, but injurious to a *certain description of cases*. You then call upon me, to point out in what *species* of deafness it had been found useful; to which I answer, without making use of any technical phraseology, that it had been found beneficial in that *species* of deafness, in which the person *cannot hear*, or in other words, *hard of hearing*, without having recourse to the old French proverb, *mauvaise volonté rend sourde*, this is the only *species* of deafness with which I am acquainted, and I repeat that *salt* and *water* has been found serviceable, and has restored to hearing three or four persons within the circle of

my acquaintance, a proof of which will be given in the following relation.

About four years since, I paid a visit to a lady in Holborn, (her age nearly seventy) who for upwards of twelve years, had been afflicted with a *species* of deafness to such a degree, that she could not hear, without speaking almost loud enough, to be heard in Covent Garden: at the present visit I addressed her with the accustomed *stentorian* voice; when, to my great surprise, she said, "Sir, you need not trouble yourself to speak *so loud*, for I can hear as well as you now." On my enquiring by what means she had recovered her faculty of hearing, she said, that last summer she had visited some friends, by the sea side, with whom she resided during two or three months. One day a young lady paid the family a visit, and discovering that she was *so deaf that she could not hear*, advised her to take, as *much salt as would lay on a sixpence*, and dissolve it in a table-spoonful of water; and when in bed, to direct some person to pour into one of her ears a tea-spoonful of this solution; then cover the ear with a piece of the commonest brown paper; and lastly, to put on a flannel night-cap so as to cover the ear, and endeavour to compose herself to rest, with the opposite ear on the pillow: this application was to be made to each ear alternately for a fortnight, which she persevered in; and at the expiration of a fortnight, she heard as well as ever she did in her life: she further said, "This time last year, I could not hear that clock strike," (pointing to a table clock within six feet of her,) "and now I can hear it tick very plainly."

Here is a plain fact that obtrudes itself not only on our ears and eyes, but carries also conviction to our mind,—that a woman, who now resides in High Holborn, had been afflicted with that *species of deafness that she could not hear*, and behold, by the application of salt and water, brown paper and a night-cap, the faculty of hearing was restored to her.

I could relate other instances, in which salt and water have been found beneficial, but trust this will suffice; at the same time, I most cordially agree with you, that, *sal non omnia sapit*: for it is not to your taste in the present instance, yet we must not forget, that *sapiens est omnibus aptus*.

Your time shall be no longer taken up with this subject; but pass we on to that in which I am called upon to explain myself, as to the *improper* or *unnecessary* introduction of names for remedies, by which you suppose me desirous of fixing an aspersion on some person, therefore conclude it must be yourself—And why?—'tis true you may say—and why not? Have I not as great a right to assume to myself the most *bombastic eulogies* and *rhodomontades*, long, difficult, and compound words, when probably, I compound nothing else? Am I not Aurist to her late Majesty? Dare any one dispute my title? Why should I not embrace the present opportunity *το ευκαρην μολαι και το υμμερον τις ειδη?* To all this I answer, very true, *vous avez raison*; but you must take the onus on your own shoulders.

Before entering further on the subject of improper and uncommon

names for drugs; will you have the goodness to point out the propriety, and explain the meaning of *Sal volatile*? I remember, when a boy at school, learning *Propria quæ Maribus*, and, in an exception to the second special rule, *Mascula dicuntur monosyllaba nomina quædam SAL*: but where can I find the rule to make the epithet *volatile* agree with it? I know this *simple* rule, *Adjectiva cum substantivo genere concordat*; as to *compound* rules, I leave to your explication. Pray is not this Juvenal's *rara avis*?

In my next I may possibly find out some few both *uncommon* and *improper* names for drugs, which may confound all the *faculties* of the profession to explain.

Exmouth Street.

CHEMICUS.

WHITE GRAVEL.—The following valuable observations on the medical treatment of White Gravel, are from the pen of the scientific Brande, of the Royal Society:

“The mineral acids, namely the nitric, the sulphuric, and the muriatic, have each been employed; and there are perhaps particular cases, in which one is more proper than the others; but they are all of them improper in cases where there is much irritation of the urinary passages; and as they are apt to produce this, though effectual in checking the formation of white sand, they require to be cautiously exhibited, and their effects prudently watched over.

“The *nitric acid* may be exhibited in doses of from five to twenty drops night and morning, or thrice a day. It may be taken in plain or barley water. From ten to thirty drops of the dilute sulphuric acid, and from five to twenty of the muriatic acid, may be taken in the same way; that is, diluted till they become palatably acid.

“Of these acids the nitric is perhaps most apt to disagree, and to occasion those symptoms of indigestion which are announced by flatulency and eructations; and in a few particular cases, its long continued use has rendered the stomach reluctant as to food, though many instances might be cited of its tonic effects, as a promoter of digestion, and increaser of appetite.

“The *sulphuric acid* may most properly be termed a *tonic*; it generally admits of being longer persevered in than either of the others; it seldom gripes or nauseates, and almost always promotes the functions of the stomach where they are sluggish or irregular.

“The *muriatic acid* agrees, in most cases, with the stomach, but not so with the bowels, which always become more relaxed during its use, than where the other acids are employed. This circumstance, however, often recommends it; for constipation very frequently attends the state of body which favours the formation of white sand, and hence aperient medicines are alone adequate, in some cases, to suspend or prevent the disorder.

“Where the mineral acids agree, they are usually very effective, and in a few days they diminish, or entirely prevent the formation of the sabulous deposit; but where they disagree, they rather increase its quantity, or they tend to the production of a mucous secretion, probably from the coats of the bladder, which envelopes, and is voided with the sand; and which, in particular cases, may certainly tend to increase the risk of its agglutination, and of the formation

of a concretion in the bladder. The mineral acids too, almost always disagree with children, who are equally liable with adults to an increased secretion of the phosphates, and in whom prompt and effectual treatment is equally requisite to prevent the formation of stone in the bladder.

"Here then recourse must be had to another mode of treatment, namely, to the vegetable acids.

"The *tartaric acid*, either in its pure form, or as it exists in *cream of tartar*, may be used in pretty liberal doses; of the former, from five to twenty grains, and of the latter, from twenty to forty, or sixty grains may be used, either dissolved in barley water, or administered in any convenient vehicle. The cream of tartar is more apt to relax the bowels than the tartaric acid, a circumstance which, as has been hinted above, often tends to its beneficial efficacy."

"The *citric acid*, however, seems on the whole preferable to the tartaric: it may be given in the same way, in doses of from five grains to half a drachm; it rarely proves inconveniently purgative, and is very effectual in modifying the secretion of urine.

"Cases are by no means uncommon in which a white sabulous deposit in the urine, often going to a great and alarming extent, appears symptomatic of, or in some way connected with, irregularity of the biliary secretion; pain in the region of the liver, sallow complexion, whitish brown and dry tongue, are its usual concomitants in these cases; and there is a very troublesome irregularity of bowels, generally tending to costiveness of an obstinate kind; sometimes succeeded by or alternating with relaxation. I have known persons returning from warm climates, in this predicament, and upon being questioned as to their complaint, gravel and sand are usually uppermost in the mind. They often have recourse to the solvents of *empyrics*, which, with very few exceptions, are strong alkaline solutions; or they consult medical men, who, hearing of the sand, and inadvertent as to its kind, prescribe soda water, solution of potash, magnesia, and the like ordinary preventives. This alkaline treatment invariably does harm; the patient's digestion, already feeble, becomes more impaired; the sand previously perhaps small in quantity, is rendered abundant; the bowels pass from occasional to constant irregularity, and every symptom becomes slowly, but mischievously, and in many cases irretrievably, augmented. Cases of this kind I describe with the more confidence, having seen several. I allude to them now as particularly improper in most cases for the mineral acids in large doses, whereas by the vegetable acids they are always greatly benefited. But in these, and a number of similar cases, the best and simplest plan of treatment is not to employ medicine, so much as diet; to adopt a general acid system; to abstain from soda water, and all alkalis; to refrain from malt liquor; to take weak lemonade, and an occasional glass of cider as ordinary drink at meals: if accustomed to wine, to prefer champagne and claret to Madeira or port, but to take little of either; if the bowels remain constipated, to take a drachm or two drachms of Epsom salt

in a half-pint tumbler of lukewarm water in the morning fasting ; or, what is more pleasant, to stir a tea-spoonful of magnesia into an occasional glass of sour lemonade ; to eat salads and acid fruits, and more especially oranges, which in this state of things are an heroic remedy.

“ I have said that there are few cases in which the vegetable acids, properly administered, produce any aggravation of the symptoms, or where they can be said to disagree ; yet such cases do occur, and a very copious deposition of white sand shall be attended with a peculiar irritability of bladder (independent of calculus, for those cases I propose afterwards to consider), which is aggravated by any of the above-mentioned acids, and yet in which they are most decidedly indicated. In a paper which I presented to the Royal Society in 1812, (*Philos. Trans.* 1813, p. 213,) and in which I have detailed some cases illustrative of the operation of acids in preventing the white deposit, I have spoken of the beneficial effects of *carbonic acid*, where, from peculiar circumstances, the other acids disagree ; and since that period several cases have occurred, attended by equally beneficial results. The mode of exhibiting this acid is either simply dissolved in water, in which case it may easily be prepared by the patient in a *Nooth's apparatus*, or procured from the dealers in artificial mineral waters ; or it may be administered in the form of a saline draught in the state of effervescence, as by dissolving thirty grains of carbonate of potassa, and twenty grains of citric acid, in separate tea-cups of water, mixing the solutions in a large tumbler, and drinking the whole during the effervescence. This dose may be repeated two or three times a day, or oftener if expedient.

“ It may now be asked in what manner the acids which have been mentioned act. Do they pass off by the kidneys, and produce a direct effect upon the urine by rendering it more acid, and capable of retaining the phosphates in solution ? Or do they act indirectly upon the digestive and assimilating organs, so as to modify the action of the kidneys, and, consequently, to effect their secretion ? In my communications to the Royal Society, I have briefly discussed this question, which, though undoubtedly curious, does not appear practically important, and I have now little to add upon the subject. The experiments which I made on the passing off of carbonic acid by the kidneys, I have since repeated with similar results. The recently voided urine was introduced into a phial, furnished with a bent tube, passing into lime water, and the whole apparatus put under the receiver of the air-pump. I invariably found carbonic acid evolved during the exhaustion, and observed its quantity to be greater after drinking liquors containing it in an uncombined state. I am quite aware of the uncertainty of experiments of this kind, and of the ever-varying composition of the urine, but I cannot give up the opinion that the existence of a large quantity of carbonic acid in the stomach is connected with its secretion in the kidneys.

“ I have stated above that the uncombined carbonic acid of the urine often acts an important part in retaining the earthy phosphates, but more especially the ammoniaco-magnesian phosphate, in so-

lution; and its escape is, in these cases, attended by the deposition of the triple salt, in the form of a film upon the surface of the urine, the cause of which was first pointed out to me by Dr. Wollaston.

"I have already adverted to the importance of attending to the diet in cases of white sand, and to the necessity of keeping the bowels open by the occasional use of mild aperients, where the acid regimen alone is insufficient. It frequently happens, I believe, that much of the benefit of the mineral acids may be referred to their mere tonic effect, to mending the digestion, and thus improving the general state of health. The febrile affections of children are very frequently attended by an apparently alarming deposit of white sand in the urine, and a dose of calomel will often carry off both the fever and the sand. It is thus too that air and exercise, bark, bitters, and mineral tonics, are often successfully resorted to in urinary complaints of the kind we have been considering."

WEAKNESS OF SIGHT.—A third edition of a Practical Treatise on a morbid degree of Sensibility of the Eye, commonly termed Weakness of Sight, by Mr. Stevenson, the leading Oculist in this metropolis, has lately been published by Messrs. Burgess and Hill, medical booksellers, of Great Windmill Street. The very beneficial results of the Author's new plan of treating this distressing affection of the eye, led him for some time to suppose that the topical abstraction of blood by means of leeches or cupping, aided by the auxiliary methods pointed out in his two first editions, would be found adequate to the cure of *every degree* and modification of it; but in a few obstinate cases, which have lately occurred in his practice, he has found it necessary to abstract a greater quantity of blood than he had previously imagined would in *any* instance be required. He suspects that these cases ought not in strict propriety to be considered instances of *primary* disease. It is more probable, says he, that the increased sensibility of the eye constitutes only one link in the chain of diseased affections, the brain itself participating in the more or less distension of the blood-vessels, or inflammatory action of the retina. He was led to adopt this opinion on account of the very disproportionably large evacuations of blood he found indispensable to subdue the exquisite susceptibility of the eyes to light, as compared with the small quantity which had usually succeeded in common cases, and in part from the symptoms attendant on the more violent form of the disease giving way under the same treatment. In the anniversary oration the author delivered before the Medical Society of London, two years ago, he ably contended that many of the complaints, denominated *nervous*, (characterised principally by a great susceptibility to external impressions, occasional head-ache, attended with lowness of spirits, restlessness, anxiety, &c. the origin of which is generally referred to a disordered condition of the stomach,) are the consequences of an inflammatory or a congestive state of the brain; that the most effectual mode of relief consists in unloading the vessels of the head by topical bleeding, the exhibition of aperient medicines, and the usual means of counter-irritation, as blisters to the nape of the neck, and sinapisms to the feet. The prevailing doctrine which attributes

almost every ailment incident to the human frame to a disordered state of the liver, Mr. Stevenson observes, has served to divert the attention of professional men from the brain as the *primary* seat of disease, and that assemblage of symptoms which has been too exclusively imputed to a disordered condition of the liver, is not unfrequently the result of a sympathy of the biliary and gastric organs with an excited state of the brain. With regard to the mode in which blood may be abstracted with the greatest success, he says he has found it most beneficial when drawn from the external jugular vein. In the instances that may require several bleedings, it very commonly happens that little or no apparent benefit is derived till after a certain though indeterminate quantity of blood has been abstracted, which can be ascertained only by carefully watching the effect of *each* evacuation, until an impression be evidently made on the disease. Supposing nothing should arise to forbid a perseverance, the practitioner must persist cautiously, but unhesitatingly, in the system of depletion; when at length, after a given portion has been obtained, a few additional ounces will be found adequate to produce a considerable abatement, and sometimes even in co-operation with the auxiliary measures, the complete removal of all the distressing symptoms of the disease. In confirmation of this statement, Mr. Stevenson adds, "that patients afflicted with excessive sensibility of the eye, have represented to him their despair of obtaining relief in consequence of having already followed the treatment he recommends in his treatise, without success." In these well-marked instances the affection has been speedily cured by a perseverance in the same course of treatment which had failed in other hands, from its having been either prematurely abandoned or carried on with too much timidity. Mr. Stevenson notices in terms of approbation, an expedient which an eminent physician in the country assured him has been employed with no small temporary advantage by a clergyman, who for some years prior to its adoption, had been in a great measure incapacitated, on account of extreme irritability of sight, from pursuing his necessary studies and avocations by candle-light. This gentleman procured from a glass-manufactory, a flat-sided thin *bottle* of a considerable size, with a stand of a convenient height, which he filled with the same kind of green or blue liquid, which chemists exhibit in their shop windows. The bottle thus filled being placed betwixt the object he had to look at, and the light of the candle, the rays transmitted through the medium were so pleasantly modified, that he was able either to read or write with comparative comfort. When the exquisite sensibility of the eye is subdued by depletion, &c. the author recommends the use of an astringent lotion to prevent a relapse: the one he has found to answer the purpose best is a solution of the sulphate of zinc in rose water and camphorated mixture, in the following proportions:—

Take of Sulphate of Zinc, five grains;
 Rose Water, (fresh) six ounces;
 Camphorated Mixture, one ounce;
 Mix, and filter through paper.

The practical observations which are interspersed through this work, are highly creditable to the author as a judicious practitioner, and a man of science; and his motive in publishing it is equally creditable to him as a practical christian. Being free from empiricism and technicalities, we can recommend it to the perusal of of our non-medical subscribers, who are subject to the disease on which it treats.

DROPSY.—From the pen of Doctor Gregory, senior physician to St. George's and St. James's Dispensary, licentiate of the College of Physicians, &c. we have received a pamphlet entitled, "a Lecture on Dropsy." The doctor has discovered that a *great proportion* of the books, which have been written on this disease since the days of Hippocrates, are full of *incorrect* and *imperfect* observations, and of inaccurate reasoning; and, therefore, instead of urging his pupils to peruse them, he warns them to avoid them. The *symptoms* of the disease he admits, were accurately detailed by the antients. He exhorts them to pay respect to authors of merit, as due to justice and to *common politeness*. "This," says he, "is only doing to them as we wish that our successors should do unto us; but to attach authority to opinions merely because they are *old*, and not because they are *correct* and *practically useful*, and to inculcate doctrines which would lead young practitioners astray, would be acting a very culpable part." In former lectures the doctor flatters himself, that he gave his pupils ample proofs of his veneration for antient opinions. "This," says he, "I did, because I knew the time would come when I should feel it *my duty* to abandon them *all*; and at that point of time we are now arrived. On the present occasion, therefore, I advise you to *lock up ALL* your *old* books, from Hippocrates to Cullen, and learn the nature of the *formidable* disease of which I am now to treat from more recent sources." Of Dr. Blackall's late Treatise on Dropsy, he speaks in high terms of approbation; but in it he has discovered faults, which he attributes to the "unnecessary importance he attaches to a particular symptom, viz. the coagulability of the urine in certain cases on exposure to heat." In detailing "*what he believes to be true about dropsy*," he observes, "dropsies are of two kinds, *local* and *general*. Of *local* dropsies there are *three* principal forms; viz. chronic hydrocephalus, (watery head) hydrocele, and ovarial dropsy. One of these falls under the care of the surgeon (hydrocele, we suppose), but the pathology of each of the remaining two has something in it *peculiar* and *ALTOGETHER different* from that of general dropsy; I shall therefore exclude them from my present consideration"!! Now, as a teacher, surely it behoved the learned doctor to give some reason for not entering into the causes and treatment of those local affections. Of general dropsy he notices three forms; viz. *ascites*, (of the belly); *anasarca*, (of the cellular substance immediately under the skin); *hydrothorax* (of the chest); "but to these," he observes, "it is necessary to add a fourth, viz. *hydropericardium*, (dropsy of the pericardium) a form of dropsy generally confounded with hydrothorax, but which in theory ought to be separated from it, however

difficult it may be to distinguish." Few practitioners will agree with the learned doctor, in considering this fourth form one of *general* dropsy, for it is as much a *local* disease as hydrocele or ovarial dropsy; indeed, his other *general* forms may also be considered *local* diseases, for by the term *general* dropsy, is understood a *general* effusion of water over the body, i. e. in the chest, belly, and cellular substance beneath the skin, cases of which are by no means uncommon. The symptoms of water in the chest, the learned doctor has found more obscure than any other form of the disease. He notices an instance, in which *every* symptom mentioned by authors, was *mimicked* by the concurrence of ascites with tuberculated lungs. Another case occurred to him very lately, the following particulars of which he related, to shew that practitioners sometimes magnify the difficulties of indications of symptoms. A woman, 84 years of age, had been for several years under my care; she had every symptom of confirmed hydrothorax, and I *never for a moment doubted of the nature of her disease*. I had given her fox-glove, squills, and other diuretics, and she had always experienced the *greatest* benefit from them; for several months she had been kept alive by *their* use. She died rather unexpectedly as frequently happens in hydrothorax; and I examined the body the next day. *There was no hydrothorax, for there was no CAVITY* of the chest, the lungs adhering every where *very firmly* to the pleura, lining the ribs, and leaving no space for the accumulation of water; yet," says the experienced doctor, "I have no doubt in my own mind, that we should have found water there, if there had been a *cavity*. In point of fact, therefore, she had the disease upon her, of which one of the effects is an effusion of water in the chest"!!! Admirable logician! if there had been a cavity in the chest, he would have found it filled with water!! and although no water was there, yet it was hydrothorax!! Now, if the morbid condition of the arteries or veins within the chest existed, of which the effusion of serum, constituting dropsy, is the consequence, the cavities of the chest being obliterated by adhesive inflammation, an effusion of serum would assuredly have taken place in the pericardium, if not in the cellular substance of the lungs; but no such appearances were exhibited on dissection!! There does not appear to have been one symptom denoting even an hydropic predisposition!! Adhesion of the pleura covering of the lungs to the pleura lining of the ribs, would prevent an easy expansion of the lungs, and the free motion of the ribs; but the difficulty of breathing from adhesion, (*dyspnœa ab adhesionē*) is easily distinguished from dropsy of the chest; the difficulty of respiration in the latter is so far increased, as to produce a distressing sense of suffocation on lying down, whereas in the former case it is generally diminished, and never increased. Again, in dropsy of the chest, the habit is leucophlegmatic, and the legs, especially towards night, are generally cedematous; but in difficulty of breathing from adhesion, the patient is of an opposite constitution, unless his general health has been greatly reduced. The doctor's candour in relating the case to his pupils, we admire more

than his skill and judgment. "This would have been a case of hydrothorax, had there been a cavity in which the water could have collected,"—is followed by this shrewd observation:—"I never tried the experiment, but I suspect that a quantity of lukewarm water *might be* injected into the chest, and that we should not thereby produce that *combination* of symptoms, which is considered to characterize hydrothorax!!! Surely the *mechanical* effects of the injected water would be the same as those produced by effusion of serum, and no other symptoms are occasioned by the mere collection in hydrothorax, than are occasioned by its mechanical operation; but the lukewarm water would also excite a considerable degree of irritation and inflammation in the membrane forming the cavity, which, by extending to the substance of the lungs, would most probably terminate life in a few days.

With respect to the causes of an effusion of serum constituting dropsy, the doctor boldly declares his opinion in opposition to all preceding writers of any respectability, that the exhalent vessels are as *perfectly* passive as the absorbents, and that the increased effusion from the former depends entirely on the state of the heart and arteries on one side of them, and that of the veins on the other. Dropsy therefore is arterial and venal.

"If," says he, "the arterial action is increased from some general cause, as strong exercise, or an attack of fever, which act equally on the veins and every other part of the system, all goes on well; but if arterial action is increased from a cause which does not operate equally on the veins, as from diseased valves of the heart, or aneurism of the large vessels disturbing the regularity of the heart's action, the impetus of the blood upon the exhalent vessels will be increased, and dropsy will follow. If on the other hand, the return of venous blood to the heart is obstructed by some local impediment, which has no corresponding effect in retarding the motion of blood through the arteries, the same degree of morbidly increased pressure on the exhalents will here occur from increased impetus, and the same consequences will ensue."

In order to enable his readers to distinguish arterial from venous dropsy, he introduces the following observations:—

"All cases of dropsy which exhibit, after death, marks of thoracic disease, are of the arterial kind. So are all those which are connected with inflamed peritonæum. Dropsies which depend upon enlargements of the liver and spleen, such as those which follow a *Walcheren* ague, dropsies which are owing to the pressure of the impregnated uterus, and the dropsy of a limb from the pressure of a tumour in the groin or axilla, are of the venous kind."

The doctor has discovered that "dropsy is sometimes owing to *cold*; there is," says he, "no doubt about this fact." In proof of this undoubted fact, he notices a case of anasarca, with symptoms of dropsy of the chest, that occurred at St. George's Hospital. "Even the patient himself," he says, "attributed it to cold and wet, joined to *great* fatigue." The disease proved fatal, and, on opening the chest the next day, he found the "heart adhering *everywhere* to the pericardium." Now what did this *everywhere* adhe-

sion to the pericardium prove, but that the effect of the cold, &c. was inflammation, which terminated in the said every-where adhesion, and that the anasarca was the consequence of the adhesion, or rather of its effects on the general health.

With respect to the treatment of dropsy, the doctor observes, "It must differ in proportion as it is considered to be of the *arterial*, *venous*, or *the atonic*; that is to say, as depending on disturbed arterial action, on the obstruction to the free return of blood by the veins, or on general debility of the system." In cases of *arterial* dropsy, the object of course is to diminish arterial action, which, in most instances, he has found to be effected by bleeding, as practised by Dr. Blackwell of Exeter, and more recently by Dr. Crampton of Dublin. For the two last years the doctor says he has been in the habit of ordering bleeding in all *strongly* marked cases of arterial dropsy. The blood he has found sometimes to exhibit a buffy appearance, but more generally to shew great firmness of coagulum. The patients took very little medicine, so that the favourable results were attributable solely to bleeding. He cautions his pupils against carrying the remedy further than the *urgency* of the symptoms may indicate. Although in the first part of his lecture he speaks of the fox-glove as a diuretic, and as such recommends its internal use in cases of dropsy, he declares in the latter part of his lecture, he never found it to increase the secretion of urine!! He attributes its salutary effects in dropsy to its power in diminishing arterial action. The elaterium, he says, possesses a similar power, but in a less degree, and for this important information he acknowledges himself indebted to a Dr. Ash!! That elaterium is a drastic purgative, and that it uniformly diminishes arterial action, was well known long before the fox-glove was introduced into practice by Dr. Withering, and it has fallen almost into disuse, in consequence of the fox-glove being very considerably cheaper, and being found to produce similar effects.

The treatment of the venous kind of dropsy is to be conducted on different principles. Purging, he says, "has the strongest claims to confidence:"—he confesses that he has found purgatives when carried too far, to produce diarrhoea, which soon terminated life. In cases of dropsy originating from the excessive use of spirituous liquors, purgatives have in his practice proved particularly beneficial. When the liver is diseased, mercury may be administered, but its indiscriminate use with the view of stimulating the absorbents he condemns. That mercury increases the action of the absorbent system, or promotes absorption of serum, or any other deposit in the cellular substance of the body, is a fact that no surgeon will deny. The object in the treatment of this disease, he considers to be more the *prevention* of further mischief than the removal of the accumulated water. When dropsy is the consequence of general debility, the doctor has discovered the best mode of treatment is, to remove the cause by strengthening the system with tonic and aromatic medicines, and to rouse the action of the kidneys by neutral salts and certain stimulating vegetables, particularly juniper. The sweet spirit of nitre, in combination with the aromatic

confection, he has found an excellent form, but "the selection and combination of the medicines of these classes I leave to your discretion," i. e. to his pupils!! This was a flattering compliment to his class, probably a politic one. The assertion that dropsy is produced by increased arterial action, and that the exhalents are in a passive state, is a strange contradiction. If the effusion be the consequence of increased action of the heart and arteries, surely the action of the exhalents must also be increased; for the separation of the serum from the blood is affected by them.

Dropsy is very rarely a *primary* disease. Nine hundred and ninety-nine cases in a thousand are the consequence of some local or general disease, when the treatment must depend on the situation or nature of the affection of which the effusion or dropsy is the sequel. When the stamina of a patient have not suffered materially, bleeding may be employed with impunity, and its good effects we attribute to the increased action of the absorbent system which generally follows the loss of blood, probably an effort of nature to replenish the system of blood-vessels; but when the stamina are bad, the loss of blood will increase the complaint and hasten its fatal termination.

We advise Dr. Gregory, when he comes to the subject of dropsy, in future, to resign the chair to one of his pupils, and to desire him to deliver what is vulgarly termed an *extrumpere* lecture on the phenomena and treatment of dropsy—to lock up with the works of the ancients, those of the moderns, and make a dash at something new.—The immortal Dr. Hunter frequently observed, that he was more indebted to the remarks and questions of his pupils, than to all the works, both ancient and modern.

DROPSY OF THE CHEST.—In a very distressing case of this disease, we have found occasional purging with elaterium and calomel, and the intermediate use of a tonic and diuretic medicine, to succeed after other remedies had proved unavailing. Two grains of elaterium with two of calomel, and one drop of the oil of cloves made into two pills, were given twice a week, and three table-spoonsful of the following mixture three times a day:—

Take of the Infusion of the Pyrola Umbellata, six ounces;

Saturated Tincture of Cubebs, one ounce;

Tincture of Squills,

Ethereal Spirit of Nitre, of each three drachms.—Mix.

The legs being anasarcaous, a blister of the size of a crown piece was applied to the inside of each leg about an inch above the ankle.

EPILEPSY.—An intelligent gentleman of Gloucester, informs us, that the parents of a young man residing at Fairford, who had been for four or five years subject to epileptic fits, applied (by the advice of a friend) a live pigeon to the pit of his stomach during an attack of the paroxysm. The fit terminated much sooner than usual, and the pigeon on being removed was observed to be stupid. On a return of the fit the same pigeon was re-applied to the pit of the stomach, and soon afterwards the patient recovered, and the pigeon exhibited some symptoms of being convulsed. On a recur-

rence of a fit, (after a much longer interval than usual) the pigeon was again applied, when it shortly became convulsed and died. The patient has since remained entirely free from the disease, although many months have elapsed. The parents therefore suppose that the pigeon attracted something from the system which had excited the fits. Our medical readers will, no doubt, attribute the beneficial effects of this mode of treatment to its operation on the imagination, and the death of the pigeon to its being so long confined to the warm body of the patient, or perhaps to suffocation or fright. With them we are willing to agree; but if it does act so powerfully on the imagination as to quiet the brain and the nervous system, so as to suspend or cure epilepsy, surely it is entitled to attention. We have so often witnessed the cure or disappearance of warts by charms, that we are disposed to think favourably of remedies that act forcibly on the mind. Many remedies highly extolled by the antients as specifics, the moderns have found to produce no salutary effect whatever; may we not therefore attribute the good effects which followed their exhibition, to the influence of the wig, cane, and haughty demeanour of the physicians on the minds of their patients!!

Mr. John Mansford, an eminent surgeon of Bath, whose work on the Influence of Situation on Pulmonary Consumption, we have noticed in a late number, has published a very scientific work on Epilepsy, under the title of *Researches into the Nature and Causes of Epilepsy*, as connected with the physiology of animal life and muscular motion. By means of a modification of the galvanic power, and attention to the general health, it appears he has succeeded in the cure of a few obstinate cases of this truly distressing affliction. We are sorry we did not receive a copy of this valuable production in time to give the substance of it in our present number.

WATERY HEAD.—Dr. Brachet, an eminent physician of Lyons, in a treatise on this disease, attributes it to the effects of the customary tight and confined dresses of children, which by checking the afflux of blood to the surface of the body, occasion a preternatural determination of it to the brain, the only organ that is not compressed. The due expansion of the chest being prevented, the passage of the blood through the lungs is retarded, the right ventricle of the heart becomes in consequence distended, and the system of veins overloaded, and hence the blood does not undergo the change which is necessary to support health. The delicate structure of the brain and its vital activity expose it more than any other part to the injurious consequence of this unnatural mode of dressing children. Among the symptoms of this disease, the doctor notices the following as decisive of its existence. If any liquid be offered to the child, it seizes the vessel with avidity, and appears by reiterated sucking motion of its lips, to shew that it has a constant desire for drink, or else its wandering imagination makes it perceive objects which it fancies it can seize; for if the vessel be kept quiet, and the lips be slightly touched, they are immediately elongated, and the sucking or drawing-in movements re-commence." The doctor's idea of the cause of the frequency of the disease is no

doubt correct, and therefore merits the attention of parents; but the symptoms which he mentions as characterizing the disease, we meet with in the most healthy infants, and are more absent than present in real cases of it.

COW-POX.—Dr. Latham, as president of the National Vaccine Establishment, has addressed a letter to Lord Viscount Sidmouth, the principal Secretary of State to the Home Department, on the subject of this disease. The doctor states, that independent of the *continued* distribution of vaccine lymph from their Board to *all parts* of the British dominions, the reputation of its purity is such, that applications for a supply are often made from foreign countries, a piece of information which the doctor fancies will be *highly* gratifying to his Lordship. He admits that cases have been reported to the Institution, of vaccinated persons having taken small-pox, to five of which it proved fatal. The following observation certainly merits serious attention, and we hope it will have some influence on the minds of those who have wantonly opposed vaccination. "It is a fact," says the doctor, "that cannot be too strongly impressed on the public, that there is a considerable difference of success in the different modes of inserting and conducting the vaccine disease. Hence the Board are informed by some surgeons, that a portion of their vaccinated patients have been subsequently affected with small-pox, though in a mild form, while other surgeons state, that they have vaccinated *many thousands without a single failure*. As however the cases vaccinated at the stations of the Board are all registered, they possess the sure means of ascertaining the real effects of *correct* vaccination." If our opinion of the preventive powers of vaccination were influenced solely by *our own* experience, we should certainly be warmly attached to it. The writer vaccinated eight out of nine of his own children; and although they have been exposed to the contagion repeatedly, and inoculated with variolous matter till he is tired of the experiment, they have all resisted it. This is strong evidence in its favour; but after having met with failures in subjects who were vaccinated by Doctors Jenner and Pearson, he cannot recommend it as affording certain security against the contagion of small-pox. All the practitioner has to attend to in communicating vaccination, is the period he takes the lymph, and that the system is affected by it; for the inflammation and suppuration will sometimes go on without affecting the constitution, in consequence of no portion of the virus being absorbed.

DEAF AND DUMB ASYLUM.—SIRS,—A copy of the following letter, which it was my intention to address to the Patron, &c. of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, through the medium of the newspapers, was presented, by favour of a physician of high character, to His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, the patron of the Institution, who sent it to the committee, with a recommendation, that my offer should be accepted. The answer of the committee upon this subject I also send you, which, in the opinion of all who have seen it, shews that the rules of this charitable Institution require revision to meet the improved state of science, as regards the unfortunate objects of its bounty. If my proposal had been founded on mere theory, and danger, or pain attended the methods of giving relief in these cases, the committee would certainly be justified in hesitating

before they placed these poor children under any proposed plan of treatment; but, when proofs have been produced to the late Queen, and others of the Royal Family, that it is no visionary or speculative idea, and the proposal was sent to the committee, recommended by their illustrious patron, there certainly appears sufficient reason to submit a matter of this importance to a *general meeting* of the governors, or to give the parents of these poor children an *option* of placing them under those modes of treatment, which have already proved so beneficial to several in similar circumstances.

I am, Sirs,

Your obedient servant,

28, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden,

W. WRIGHT,

June 17th, 1819.

Surgeon-Aurist to her late Majesty,

To the Editor of — SIR,—Through the medium of your paper, I beg to address the illustrious patron, president, vice-presidents, and subscribers, to the Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, on a subject peculiarly interesting to the cause they support.

Amongst the improvements in medical and surgical science, it has been discovered, that deafness, and all affections of the ears, admit of relief in a much greater proportion of cases than was formerly supposed; and all painful, acrimonious, or dangerous experiments, are now abandoned by every enlightened practitioner, in favour of methods of treatment, so mild and gentle, that they are submitted to by children of the most tender age, as well as persons in advanced life, without repugnance, and with the most beneficial results. I would not here be supposed to convey an idea, that any specific has been discovered for the cure of these complaints, the inducing causes of which are so various, that such a discovery is very improbable, if not impossible, it being only by due consideration of each particular case, and the appointment of remedies suited to its relief, that any expectation of it can be reasonably formed.

Feelings of compassion for the situation of those born deaf and dumb, induced me to give this subject a patient and full consideration, and to extend my researches and exertions for their service. Cases soon presented themselves; and, after considerable perseverance, I experienced the heart-felt gratification of finding my endeavours crowned with success, in several instances; and I have thereby relieved your Institution of burthens, which would otherwise have fallen upon it.

Her late Majesty was pleased to command my attendance, together with a young lady, eleven years of age, who was born totally deaf, and consequently was dumb; one of those to whom I have been the fortunate instrument of giving the sense of hearing, and who is progressively learning the use of language. The Queen was affected and gratified by the sight of this interesting child; and in the most gracious manner condescended to require a statement of the case, received full proofs of the facts, and honoured me with her patronage.

From the experience I have had in cases of this description, I am of opinion, many of the children in your valuable Institution might be benefited, and probably, some as completely as the child now with me, who was presented to her Majesty, provided a facility was afforded for a perseverance in proper means. To point out the service this would be to your charity, must be superfluous; for you, who have proved your active beneficence, and the interest you take in these unfortunate persons, by the establishment and support of an Asylum, where they receive all the attention and instruction of which it has been supposed they are capable, will be fully able to estimate the advantage, not only as far as your Institution is concerned, but generally as beneficial to the community.

The unexampled circumstances I have mentioned, resulting from the improved treatment of persons so situated, have already attracted the

attention of the professors for teaching the deaf and dumb in the United States of America, who have expressed a wish to have a gentleman instructed in the modes of treating these cases, which have proved so successful.

As the consideration and relief of affections of the organ of hearing is a branch of study peculiar to itself, I am satisfied I cannot infringe upon the department of the professional gentlemen who attend your institution, in offering my assistance, gratuitously, in favour of the children who are the objects of your bounty, which I beg now most respectfully to do; and further, to promise a permanence of my exertions to afford them relief, and aid your charitable intentions under such arrangement as may appear to conduce the most effectually to further my endeavours, and which I will submit to your committee when called upon to do so.

I have the honour to be, most respectfully, Your very obedient Servant,

W. WRIGHT,

December 17th, 1819.

Surgeon-Aurist to her late Majesty.

COMMITTEE OF THE ASYLUM FOR DEAF AND DUMB.

Extract from the Minutes, March 8th, 1819.

"Dr. Yates reported a communication from His Royal Highness, the Patron, with two letters."

"Read a letter addressed to Dr. Bain, from J. P. Coffin, Esq. stating the relief in regard to his deafness, which he had received from Mr. Wright's practice."

"Read also a letter from W. Wright, Esq. offering his services gratuitously, to attend the children in the Asylum as Surgeon Aurist."

"RESOLVED, That, as this institution is established only for the purposes of instruction, it is the opinion of this committee that they cannot, consistently with their sense of the confidence reposed in them by the parents, permit the pupils, received by them for education alone, to be subjected to any medical treatment whatever, in regard to their deafness, while they are in the Asylum; and that a copy of this resolution be respectfully communicated to His Royal Highness, the Patron."

We perfectly agree with Mr. Wright, that the committee of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum ought to have submitted to the whole of the governors of this institution, the proposal which they received; and think the gentlemen composing the committee have incurred a very serious responsibility, by not taking the sense of those persons, from whose purses the institution is supported. A committee is very useful, and necessary, if well conducted, to manage the affairs of the charity; but, whilst there are such numbers of these unfortunate children, who every half year apply in vain for admission, surely every encouragement should be afforded to assist the dawning of a science, which, at some future period, may be so improved, as to render the present institution unnecessary.

We have seen the child that was presented to the late Queen, after having the sense of hearing given to her by Mr. Wright's modes of treatment:—her manner of speaking is totally different from that of those unfortunate beings who are taught to talk by mechanical means; for it is a fact not universally known, that, at the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, such means only are used, and by the confession of the committee, no attempt is made to benefit the hearing; the consequence naturally is, that dreadful and distressing contortions of

the face, and horrid inarticulate sounds, are well known to take place, when any of the few who are said to attain speech at the Asylum attempt to use that faculty:—but this child, on the contrary, modulating her voice by the new sense she has acquired, is like an infant learning the use of language, and whilst her fine healthy countenance clearly indicates that the curative process was not injurious, a conversation with her must interest every friend of humanity, to facilitate the endeavours of respectable men for relieving those labouring under this melancholy deprivation. We regret the committee do not see this in the same point of view that we do, and shall rejoice if our observations awaken their attention previous to the body of governors taking up this subject themselves.

HYDROPHOBIA.—For the following method of preventing the dreadful effects of the bite of a mad dog, or other animals, we are indebted to Dr. Theodore Hart, of Red Lion Square.

“As soon as can possibly be done, cupping must be applied on and round the part bitten; by this application the mucous substance or fluid left by the animal on the wound is carried off, and the spasmodic affections, which always accompany the bite of a mad animal, are prevented; for the latter purpose it is necessary to keep the cup on the wound and the surrounding parts for about a month; this application is neither painful nor difficult, for it is sufficient to moisten a small glass with *Eau de Cologne*, *Eau de Melisa*, or any other substance containing alcohol, and setting the liquor on fire, to apply the glass immediately on the affected part.

The doctor states that he has had opportunities of witnessing the beneficial effects of the method here proposed, when he was in the Brazils, in South America, where it is in general use among the inhabitants; and that, from all he has been able to learn, it promises to be the most certain and efficacious remedy hitherto proposed for the above horrible malady.

EXTRACT OF MALT.—SIRS,—I send you for your valuable publication, the receipt for making the Extract of Malt. It has been found very efficacious in allaying a troublesome cough, and in spitting of blood; and, I believe, if taken in time, would prevent a consumption.

Yours, &c.

Kensington, July 14th.

H. G.

Let a peck of the best malt be ground and put into an earthen pan; pour six quarts of boiling water over it, stir it well and cover it up close. Let it stand 28 hours; after which strain it through a clean coarse cloth; then put it into a preserving pan over a gentle fire, stirring and scumming it all the while. Let it boil till it comes to a syrrup that ropes, and is as thick as treacle. Put it into galley-pots, and when cold cover it up close. A tea-spoonful of this may be taken in a morning fasting, and at night going to bed, and at other times when the cough is troublesome.

PURIFIED LIGNIC ACID.—The experienced Dr. Sherson, of Bridge House, in Surrey, has lately prescribed the purified lignic acid in cases of scarlet and typhus fever, and putrid ulcerated sore throat, with the most decisive success. Its internal exhibition more

effectually allays thirst, and abates fever, than any other acid; and when applied as a gargle to inflamed or ulcerated sore throat, it has been found to disperse the inflammation, and to deterge the ulcers more effectually than the infusion of rose leaves, with the sulphuric acid, the gargle generally resorted to in those cases. The concentrated acid may be given in the dose of forty to sixty drops in a glass of water, three or four times a day. For the purpose of gargling the throat, four drachms of the concentrated acid may be added to half a pint of water. Mr. Burridge, a scientific surgeon of Leatherhead, has also found this acid highly beneficial in scarlet and typhus fever, and as a cooling and detergent gargle in cases of ulcerated sore throat. This gentleman recommends it to be freely sprinkled over the floor of the chambers, and even the external bed-clothes of the afflicted with those diseases. The concentrated acid (perfectly pure) may be obtained at the rate of two shillings and sixpence a pound. It is equal in strength to the acetic acid, sold by some chemists at the rate of eighteen shillings a pound. The concentrated lignic acid, diluted with water, in the proportion of one pound of the former to seven pounds of the latter, is generally sold throughout this country for distilled vinegar. By some Italian merchants this diluted acid is much puffed off under the name of double distilled *French vinegar*, at a most extravagant price. The lignic acid chemically examined, does not differ in any respect from pure vinegar. It agrees better with the stomach than common vinegar, uniformly promoting digestion, and invigorating the digestive organs.

CIDER.—From a correspondent in Southwark, we have received the following receipt for making a substitute for Cider.—He states that he has found it to agree with him much better than the article sold in London under the name of Cider, and that it is more pleasant to the palate.

Dissolve 8 lbs. of brown sugar in ten gallons of water, then add a large wine-glassful of yeast, and ferment for three days; then draw off the liquor into a tub, and add a sufficient quantity of pure tartaric acid (previously dissolved in a little water) so as to render it pleasantly acid; then return the liquor to the cask, and after it has stood one day, exclude it from the atmospheric air by a good bung: in three days it will be fit for use; and if bottled, will soon be what is technically termed by the trade, "up." He adds, the tartaric acid being the produce of the grape, is more pleasant and wholesome than the acid of the apple or the pear; and if the solution of sugar be properly fermented, a wine may be produced equal to Champagne. The experiments he has made with the article sold by some merchants in London, under the names of Cider and Perry, have satisfied his mind that they contain a very small proportion of the juice of either the apple or the pear. In some he has discovered alum, and in others the oil of vitriol. To make a good imitation of Champagne wine, he directs an infusion of malt (sweetened) to be substituted for water, and half a pint of orange-flower water to be added to ten gallons of the fermented liquor.

STRICTURE.—SIRS,—The following was given as a prescription

for relief of stricture, by Mr. Pearson, of Golden Square, to a young gentleman who consulted him. The patient was particularly directed to take the prescription to Mr. Hudson's, in the Haymarket, and was told he must remain in town for at least seven months; and fearful he should forget the fee, was kindly reminded of it, and given to understand that it was to be repeated every subsequent visit. Instead of taking this *valuable* prescription to Mr. Hudson's, the gentleman went to another surgeon, and in about five weeks returned home relieved of his distressing complaint, by the mere introduction of bougies, and increasing the size of them progressively.

I am, Sirs, yours obediently,

W.C.

London, July 26th, 1819.

Take of carbonate of Soda, 16 grains;

Calcined Magnesia, 10 ditto. Mix.

To be taken twice a day in pure water. Send *twelve* powders.

This composition is not very creditable to a surgeon who professes to be acquainted with chemistry, or one in partnership with a chemist. To order an article, deprived of *carbonic acid* by calcination, to be taken with a powerful carbonate, does not appear to us to be very scientific.

HADFIELD'S ORIGINAL TINCTURE.—This nostrum is made by Mr. Thomas Thackeray, of Ashton-Under-Line, near Manchester.—The proprietor states, in his Dissertation on this invaluable composition, "that the public, who knows its value, has lamented that the great age and bodily infirmities of the *Mrs. Hadfield*, prevented her from preparing it for several years; and the innumerable applications from all parts of the united kingdom, sufficiently prove its superiority to the *spurious* tincture which has been long *imposed* on the public under the sanction of *her* name. In order that the public may not in future be subject to such *infamous* imposition, the proprietor has thought proper to change the shape of the bottle to a *square* moulded one."!!! The medicine, he asserts, "without even the most distant idea of contradiction, possesses *unequalled* virtues in a *variety* of inward complaints, particularly the gravel, a tea-spoonful of which giving immediate relief, and a perseverance perfecting a cure." For *violent* pains in the breast and stomach, a tea-spoonful or two *dropped on a piece of lump sugar*, affords immediate relief. For spitting of blood it is a *sovereign* remedy. For *broken ribs*, or *inward crushes*, inward bruises or fractures, a tea-spoonful taken twice a day effects wonders!!—applied *externally*, it is superior to *all* other remedies, when applied with a *warm* hand *by the fire*, both in *chronic* and acute rheumatism: by a few dressings, bad cuts and bad bruises, &c. are cured." For similar diseases and accidents in brutes, it is equally efficacious, as may be proved by a few trials"!! The composition of this most valuable discovery, is Castile soap and Guaiac gum, dissolved in rectified spirit of wine! As an *external* application for "*cuts, bruises, and fractures*," it is capable of producing, by its stimulating quality, the most serious mischief; and for the disease, for the cure of which its *internal* use is so much extolled, it is also capable of doing serious injury by exciting fever. The contents of a two-shilling bottle cost the proprietor fourpence.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

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OF DOCTOR JOHN RICHARD FARRE.

THE subject of this memoir is a native of Barbadoes. At a tender age he was preserved, under Providence, by the watchful care of his father, in the dreadful hurricane of 1790, which desolated that island, and destroyed upwards of three thousand persons, out of a population scarcely exceeding eighty thousand, and property, according to official returns, amounting to upwards of one million sterling. His father's house, in common with most of the public and private buildings, yielded to the fury of the wind, and fell at midnight, about the eighteenth hour of the tempest. At this awful hour of impending death he was rescued by his father, and conveyed (the lightning serving as his guide) to a place of safety.

After the usual classical education, he commenced the study of medicine and surgery under his father, who accompanied him to England in 1792, and entered him a dresser for two years in the united hospitals of Guy's and St. Thomas's, under Mr. Forster, and a perpetual pupil to all the lectures at that most excellent school of medicine. At the close of the following year he passed his examination at Surgeons' Hall, and obtained his diploma as surgeon. His object in doing this, was to accompany Mr. Forster, to whom he was pupil, to the south of France, in the expedition under the Earl of Moira, for the purpose of acquiring a knowledge of military surgery. He served as hospital mate three months; but disappointed in both his objects, by Mr. Forster's declining the appointment of surgeon on the staff, and by the failure of the expedition, he resigned his situation, with the approbation of the director of the staff, the late Sir J. M. Hayes, and returned to London to pursue his studies.

Besides his application to the practice of medicine, under Dr. Saunders, he devoted the time to dissection, which was not occupied by his other studies. His attention to anatomy attracted the notice of Mr. Astley Cooper, who, in the spring of 1795, appointed him to demonstrate the relative situation and structure of the abdominal and thoracic viscera, at Surgeons' Hall, during his lectures on those organs, before the corporation of surgeons.

In the following winter he sailed from England in the unfortunate fleet under Admiral Christian, and after a stormy and perilous voyage, commenced by having nearly suffered shipwreck, the fate of many others on that occasion, and interrupted by seeking shelter in Grand Canary, from the dangers of a leaky ship, which for three weeks had nearly exhausted the strength of the passengers and seamen to keep her from foundering, he was enabled, through

the disinterested and generous conduct of Mr. Russell (a Spanish gentleman and merchant) and the captain, to pursue his voyage to Barbadoes, where he arrived at the end of fourteen weeks after his departure from England—a voyage which is usually completed in five weeks, or even a shorter period. He was well received by his countrymen; and although his voyage was only intended as a visit to his family before he settled in England, he was soon extensively engaged in operative surgery, and was appointed, during his stay, surgeon to the St. Michael's regiment. In 1797 he recrossed the Atlantic with his countryman, Mr. Jones, whose education was entrusted to his direction; and in the ensuing winter refreshed his memory with anatomy, by initiating his pupil into that important study.

On marrying the only daughter of William Crawley, Esq. of London, he took up his residence in the metropolis; but the declining health of his parents requiring a change of climate, he again went to Barbadoes, with a view of accompanying them to England. On his arrival, it was a great source of grief to him to find that his excellent father had ventured on a voyage to Bermuda, and had died there. He again practised operative surgery and midwifery during his stay at Barbadoes; but returned to England in the summer of 1800, accompanied by his mother, who was suffering under one of the severest chronic diseases, incident to a warm climate; and he had the unhappiness to lose her the following winter,

He now became very intimate with the late Mr. Saunders, Demonstrator of Anatomy at St. Thomas's Hospital, and cultivated with him the more difficult points in practical anatomy, recommencing the study of morbid anatomy, to which he has ever since chiefly devoted his leisure. In 1802 he graduated at Glasgow, and resided the time required by the London College at Edinburgh, where he attended the practice of the Infirmary, the medical, clinical, chemical, and philosophical classes.

In 1804 he commenced the practice of medicine in London. At this time he was engaged in publishing his friend Dr. Jones's work on Hæmorrhage, the manuscript of which had been left in his hands for that purpose; and, aided by his friend Mr. Saunders, in establishing the London Infirmary for diseases of the eye, to which he was appointed the consulting physician, the important office of which he continues to exercise, to the great satisfaction of the governors as well as of the patients.

In 1806 he was admitted a licentiate of the College of Physicians. He was subsequently appointed physician to the London Dispensary, which he resigned in 1810. In the same year his friend Mr. Saunders died; and in 1811 he published his posthumous work, to which he added a short Memoir of the Author's life, and his method of curing the congenital cataract, in which he has illustrated many important facts, by a variety of plates.

His own publications are—Cases of Hydrocele, with reflections in the Medical Records and Researches, published in 1798—Cases

of Inflammation of the Larynx, in the Medico-Chirurgical Transactions for 1812, with a view to the accurate symptoms and treatment of a disease, which destroyed in one year two distinguished physicians, Dr. Pitcairn and Sir John M. Hayes.—In 1812, the first part of the Order, Tumors, of his Morbid Anatomy of the Liver, with coloured plates.—In 1814, his Essay on Malformation of the Heart, illustrated by plain engravings.—In 1815, the second part of the Orders, Tumors, of his Morbid Anatomy of the Liver.

His Morbid Anatomy of the Alimentary Canal, intended as a continuation of Dr. Baillie's Series, has lately appeared, the engravings of which do him much credit, as an accurate observer.

From the preceding view of Dr. Farre's professional progress, it is evident, that the improvement of the *science* of medicine has formed his great and laudable ambition; and this he has attempted on a solid foundation, by connecting the characteristic symptoms and appearances of disease for the mutual illustration and discrimination of each. In introducing his work on the Liver, he observes, that his views are to enquire into the anatomical character, symptoms, and treatment of certain diseases, which impair or destroy the structure of that viscus; and the objects of such enquiry he considers as best obtained,—1stly, By selecting from the histories of fatal cases of organic disease of the liver, the signs which accompany the palpable changes of structure in the liver.—2dly, By describing from the dissections of the *same* cases, the anatomical characters of those changes of structure; and by thus connecting, as far as it can be done, the symptoms with the morbid appearances. 3dly, By investigating the treatment which was prescribed according to the symptoms, and by determining its propriety from the *nature* of the disease ascertained by anatomy.

Medicine ought neither to be degraded to the level of a conjectural art, nor perhaps, as yet, elevated to the rank of a science. In the same proportion that it has been made to recede from the former by the labours of the profession, it has approached the latter. Its progress would doubtless have been more rapid, if eminence had been awarded to its members only for what they had *done*, and not for what they had *imagined*. As the impatience of the physician leads him to a hasty generalization of facts, so his vanity too easily reconciles him to the flattery which styles his work a finished performance. Few have the modesty of the distinguished Sydenham, who, when he was complimented on his History of Acute Diseases, by the learned and accomplished Dr. Paman, replied, with a modesty and regard to truth which ought to endear his memory to posterity,—“Such a work would employ ten physicians in succeeding ages, each of them eminent for talent, industry, and experience: so far am I from having attained or supposing that I shall attain the *art* of physic.” We have seen the finest minds employed in *fancying* instead of *discovering* the several links which should connect into a perfect whole the broken train of medical truths: but, what is worse, we have seen the same minds exhausting their ingenuity to support the idols of their imagination, before which they expect the medical world to bow. It is not by such inventions

that medicine can ever be raised to the dignity of a science. Its truths lie concealed, and, resting on probable evidence, can only be slowly established by sober observation, directed by that better part of a sound judgment, which is called common sense. The anatomical and chemical physician, far from under-rating the labours of the clinical practitioner, deems it essential that the history of the case, or the faithful detail of the symptoms, and treatment of the disease, be combined with the morbid appearances. Dr. Farre strenuously maintains this opinion, in some introductory remarks to his *Essay on Malformations of the Heart*; so that his wish is to unite in the same character the anatomical, the chemical, the surgical, and the clinical physician. In his pursuit of morbid anatomy he combines the plan of the illustrious Morgagni with that of Dr. Baillie. In uniting these methods, and in aiding them by colouring engravings, where colour is essential to convey the anatomical or morbid character, he contributes to the improvement of his art, where it is confessedly most obscure and difficult; namely, in the diagnostic part of medicine, especially of the diseases of the internal organs. Dr. Farre is one of the very few who can concentrate the rays of each department of medicine on the grand question of practice. He can with perfect safety apportion remedies to the nature of maladies; and to the care of such a man, a patient may cheerfully resign himself, with the thorough conviction on his mind, that all that art can accomplish will be done for him, to restore him to health.

We cannot conclude this article without expressing a hope that the Doctor will not relax in examination of organic diseases, and in communicating the results to the profession, in consequence of the extension of practice. We beg also to remind him, that, by the medical world, his pathological remarks are as highly esteemed as his accurate delineations of morbid structure by the pencil; and these we hope to see enlarged rather than curtailed.

GALVANISM.—From Professor Aldini, member of the Imperial Institutes of Milan, and of the Academies of Turin, Bologna, &c., we have received a publication, entitled “General Views of the Application of Galvanism to *Medical Purposes*, principally in Cases of Suspended Animation.” Of the effects of galvanism on the animal economy the professor distinguishes two kinds.—1stly, That which arises from the *mechanical* impulse, or shock; and 2dly, that which is produced by a current of the galvanic fluid. The use of this active fluid in medicine, particularly in cases of suspended animation, he asserts, depends on the *simplicity* of the formation of the apparatus, and the facility with which it can be applied. It is not, says he, on the *size* of the plates which are used in the galvanic apparatus, that the power of their influence on the animal frame depends, but on the *number* of them. For *chemical* operations the plates should be of extensive surface, which is not necessary when galvanism is only intended to be applied to the body.

The effects of the galvanic influence on the nervous and muscular systems of the living animal body, or a body recently defunct, the professor conceives to explain satisfactorily “why animals become more lively and active after heavy rains, and when a storm

has cleared the atmosphere; and why, on such occasions, many patients experience strange symptoms, and feel a variety of alarming variations in the state of their health. This also shews the justice of Woodward's observation, 'that there were certain persons, who, 'before a violent thunder-storm, appeared to suffer great depression 'of spirits, to feel a considerable pressure about the heart, and 'were even forced to relieve their stomach by a vomit.' Baccaria relates, that he knew a person of the name of Mazeas, who, during violent storms of thunder and lightning, was subject to violent attacks of epilepsy. 'Hence,' says Gardinius, 'we may easily 'account for the drowsiness that is felt on certain days, when 'artificial electricity is excited only with great difficulty. On these 'occasions, lassitude, melancholy, lowness of spirits, and hysteric 'affections, are particularly felt, which makes it evident that all 'nervous disorders have a connection with the atmosphere.'

M. Galvani, having ascertained, by a great variety of experiments, that in the living animal body "there are parts which are good conductors of the electric matter, and others that are non conductors, concluded, that on a proper condition of these parts the *health* of the body must necessarily depend. To ascertain the truth of this supposition, he carefully examined all the circumstances capable of deranging the natural state of the *interior* animal electricity, the result of which, was a conviction that lock jaw, epilepsy, convulsions, and nearly all the diseases of the nerves, are produced by some electric influence, which he does not attempt to define.

In order fully to prove the utility of galvanism in the treatment of diseases, he recommends practitioners, "1st, to make comparative experiments with regard to the treatment of every disease;—secondly, to divide into various classes patients affected by a given malady, and, as far as possible, under the same circumstances;—thirdly, to regulate the treatment of these disorders, sometimes applying galvanism soley, sometimes only common remedies, and at other times common remedies and galvanism united;—fourthly, to observe the state of the patient after he has been restored to health, in order to ascertain the duration of the effects of galvanism, and to observe whether it is more durable in the one method than in the other;—fifthly, to carry this plan into effect, it is recommended that professional men in great hospitals should interest themselves in this object, as they are the only persons who have the full means of ascertaining the advantages of medical galvanism, when compared with other remedies."

Of the judicious and successful application of galvanism in a great variety of diseases, by Mr. La Beaume, the professor speaks in high terms of commendation, and acknowledges that to him he is indebted for observations and precautions so highly interesting, and of such practical utility, that he intends to publish them on his return to Italy. In respect to the idea entertained by many physiologists, that the galvanic influence may supply the defect of the nervous energy, the professor is convinced, from the results of Mr. La Beaume's experiments, that the hypothesis is well founded. Mr. Galvani was of

opinion, that there is a constant current of animal electricity passing from the nerves to the muscles, and that sensations are excited in the animal economy only when some modification takes place in the current. The following experiment by M. Galvani to ascertain this fact, was made in the presence of Professor Aldini. "He applied to the nerves and muscles of a frog, prepared as usual, two different metallic coatings, upon a pane of glass, on which was pasted a piece of tin-foil, which connected these two coatings. He observed; that by either changing the contact of the different metals, placed in the middle of the metallic zone, or producing a chemical alteration, muscular contractions were constantly excited in the frog, as long as the continuity of the arc was not interrupted. Galvani profited of this interesting experiment, and others which he afterwards made analogous to it, for explaining the spasmodic sensations excited in the human body, when, in consequence of any action, the state of the fluid, which forms a continual arc between the nervous and muscular system, is changed. The influence of atmospherical electricity is sometimes one of the causes of deranging the regular state of the continual electric current, passing through the nerves and muscles, and contributes to produce those phenomena in the animal economy, above described. Galvani, a short time before his death, in the five separate memoirs on animal electricity, addressed to Professor Spallanzani, not only established the existence of currents circulating from the nerves to the muscles, but made and published drawings of their course, and determined the laws of its circulation.

From these facts M. Galvani inferred, "1st, that the electricity which produces muscular contractions, is resident in the muscles, and is never in a state of equilibrium; and therefore there is always a current, by means of which the electricity derived from the muscles has a tendency to return to them.

"2d. That the nerves are designed by nature to be the conductors of this electricity, because their extremities are spread over the whole internal substance of the muscular fibres.

"3d. That the nerves perform that function by means of their own medullary substance; and, consequently, when this is interrupted, or separated either by a ligature, or in any other manner, the current of electricity is suspended, although in this state of the nerves, the membranes and the humidity may be able to conduct electricity from the muscles.

"Galvani, therefore, not only proved the existence of internal electricity, inherent in the animal system: he advanced still farther; he laid down the method of extracting it from the nerves, and of conducting and directing its power at his pleasure."

The professor adds, "According to their principles, it will easily be seen that the application of galvanism by means of a current which I have proposed, is not a capricious hypothesis, but founded on the chemical effects of galvanism, and on the experiments above-mentioned. I think I have already sufficiently demonstrated by facts, that the galvanic action, considered as a stimulant, is so powerful an agent, that it should not be neglected in cases of

suspended animation, which forms the principal object of the present dissertation.

Besides the diseases for the cure of which Mr. La Beaume and Dr. Philip recommend galvanism, the professor thinks it is likely to prove beneficial in cases of debility or disordered state of the brain, particularly melancholy madness. Dr. Tuthill, he says, had employed it in *two* cases of this malady at Bethlehem Hospital, in one of which it produced the happiest effects.—On this charity, he makes the following observation; “as far as I have seen, it *would* be the first institution of this kind in the world, if it possessed the advantages of MORAL treatment”!

Since writing the above, we have been favoured with the following valuable communication from Mr. La Beaume, on the galvanic apparatus so highly extolled by Professor Aldini for medical purposes, and for the invention of which he claims no small degree of credit.

SIRs,—During the residence of Professor Aldini in London, I very frequently enjoyed the pleasure of his society. Our intercourse was frank and friendly; and we had repeated conversations on that branch of science, which comprehends the powers and principles of galvanic agency. Before his return to the continent, he presented me with one of the first copies of his new work, on the the medical application of galvanism to cases of suspended animation—accompanied with a marginal note, as “a proof of the esteem of the author and friend.” I have therefore to struggle with a feeling of peculiar delicacy, in disapproving of that apparatus which his pamphlet is intended to recommend. As the subject, however, is one of far too much importance to be veiled by a delicacy of feeling, or its free discussion conceded to any claims of friendship, I think it my honest duty explicitly to state my objections. When it is known that the most eminent of the faculty, in many cases of hopeless disease, recommend galvanism as the dernier resort, it will be seen that the public have indeed a deep interest in every thing connected with its proper administration.

In noticing his new-invented apparatus, and his observations on its capabilities, allow me to remark, that it was repeatedly the topic of our conversation. Our attention was often drawn to a consideration of the power of producing a strong action by a series of galvanic circles, applicable to cases of extreme urgency, where its agency was instantly required. He suggested, for this purpose, the very galvanic pile he has since adopted, and which he has described in the 5th page of the 3d section of his book. His plan was that of perforating the plates, passing a string through them, and to expedite the excitation of this combined power, by a strong solution of the muriatic acid.

Upon seeing him make the experiment with this new apparatus, I gave it as my fixed opinion, that the very principles on which it was constructed, were contrary to the *known laws of galvanism*. It appeared to me, that the moisture which must necessarily attach to the string, whether made of silk or hemp, passing through the series of plates, would, by occasioning a humid communication be-

tween their positive and negative sides, and affecting equally the outside and the centre, inevitably destroy its power; the insulation of the plates being as much required by the laws of galvanism, as by those of electricity, when attempting to obtain a distinct charge of the electric matter.

This apparatus, then, is not founded on the known properties of the electro-galvanic fluid. I must also observe, that his other pile, constructed on the principle of capillary attraction, (described in the 8th page of the 5th section,) with a view of superseding the necessity of the moistened cloth, and to retain the solution of ammoniac, is certainly an ingenious invention; but, I am concerned to add, a very insufficient apparatus for the purpose he intends it to answer.

In order to make a fair trial of the powers of this apparatus, I procured from the manufacturer these different piles, and in his presence made a complete experiment. As to the square plates supported on mahogany pillars, charged by the solution on the principle of capillary attraction, I found on repeated trials they were so slightly excited, that I could perceive no shock, or even pungency in forming the circuit of communication, though a very strong solution of muriatic acid was used. This apparatus, indeed, is, from its very construction, ill calculated to produce an adequate degree of galvanic power, because it is impossible to prevent the humid connection of the positive and negative sides of the plates, which takes place in the inner edges of the metal passing through the grooves, into which they are inserted. It is therefore of no medical utility; though, it is probable, by a much stronger solution of acid, that a slight vibration might be perceived by those whose nervous sensibility is in a state of excitement. Neither can the insulation of the outer edges of the galvanic series be obtained by the greatest nicety in wiping them dry, as the circuit of communication must be preserved by the moisture conveyed from the upper to the lower surface of the plates. On the failure of my experiment, the manufacturer observed to me, that such was the result on a former attempt, and that he had told Mr. Aldini the apparatus was not well contrived; and he then declared to me he should not hereafter make any more for sale, being quite satisfied he could not warrant their action.

As to the other apparatus, I must admit, that, though it is objectionable on the ground of its not securing perfect insulation; yet, from the number of plates excited by very strong solution, an intense and powerful shock was produced; but not so great as would be produced by the same number of plates as arranged in the common trough, invented by Crookshanks. The fact is, the oxidation goes on so rapidly, that a larger portion of electricity is disengaged, than can be conveyed from the plus to the minus state of the metallic surface, conducted by the string and the moisture on the edges of the plates, and therefore the shock is obtained only from the redundant electricity. In a few minutes the effect ceases—the power is completely lost;—to regain which, the process of charging the pile must be repeated. This necessity of using the acid so frequently, and the unpleasantness attending this part of the process both to the operator and patient, occasioned by the action of the

acid on the metal, which renders the air impure and unfit for respiration—are, after all, but slight objections, when compared with the *quick, uncertain, and irregular* excitement of this apparatus.

The idea contained in the last remark, deserves to be a little developed; and I must therefore be allowed to state, that the perfection of a galvanic battery consists in its *capability* of containing a quantity of acid solution, *proportionate* to the surface employed—together with *perfect insulation* from humid contact, constantly *imparting a regular and even current*, for as long a time as may be necessary, for medical application.

The new pile, then, does not correspond with the character of an *efficient instrument*; and from the experiment I have made on myself with the apparatus, I shall now point out its inapplicability and danger, when used for medical purposes. A very long experience, Sirs, of the medical employment of this powerful agent, has fully taught me this important lesson—that *no positive rule* can be laid down as to the *quantum sufficit* of galvanic influence required to excite the torpid organ, or paralyzed nerve. The number of plates which this battery contains, is not, in some cases, *commensurate* to the degree of *power required*; and in other cases, the *quick, intense, and sudden action* it produces, is capable of doing *very serious injury*, when the slightest degree of *inflammatory affection exists* in the parts subjected to its influence. Though the smallest power may sometimes be properly employed in the administration of the remedy, several instances have occurred in my practice of congestion and chronic inflammation, in which the galvanic influence obtained from only three or four plates, has increased the excitement in the diseased part, that I have been obliged to desist from the application, and to recommend topical and general bleeding, as the best means of arresting the progress of disease. On the other hand, I have repeatedly had occasion to transmit through the stomach, liver, and bowels, of patients, a galvanic current from four batteries, each containing seventy pair of plates, (being actually seventy more than was used by Dr. Üre, of Glasgow, to produce muscular motion in a dead subject) before I could effect any *very sensible or beneficial excitement* in the patient galvanized.

The *caution* with which I applied the galvanism to myself from Mr. Aldini's pile, and the *strict attention I paid to my feelings at the time*, enabled me afterwards to *mark more distinctly*, the kind of sensations excited by the operation. I soon found another great imperfection in this apparatus, occasioned by the *quick and uncertain* developement of the galvanic fluid, which *prevented me from* perceiving that I had received a *stronger stimulus* than necessary. On the conclusion, a very serious disturbance of the nervous system took place, which, however, soon subsided; but not till I had taken, within two hours, four doses of the most powerful nervines.

If such then may be the probable effects of employing galvanism, by this apparatus, the powers of which are inefficient in some cases, and *hazardous* in others, how improper “*a play-thing must this be in the hands of children,*” or in those of persons who are *unacquainted* with the properties of the galvanic fluid. (See p. 41.)

I dread the times, Sirs, when this important agent shall get into the hands of *ignorant and unprincipled adventurers*, or *automaton operators*; who, without skill or conscience, may hazard its application in improper cases, and not only bring a safe and efficacious remedy into discredit, but put the *credulous patient* into *torture and peril*. I most earnestly wish, that the *philosophical practitioner* would but consider the important purposes which galvanism, when properly applied, cannot fail to answer—and rescue it from the dangers of *empirical practice*—cherish its infancy by their superintendant care, and nurture its growth to perfect manhood. Then will its *Herculean powers* bid defiance to all the efforts of ignorance or envy.

I shall no longer, Sirs, trespass on the patience of your readers, but conclude these remarks by correcting an error in the statement of Mr. Aldini, with respect to my mode of applying the galvanic stimulus. (See page 67, sec. 56.) In the numerous cures of dyspeptic and hepatic diseases, of disordered respiration, and other functional and structural derangements, in which I have employed this powerful agent, *I have never had recourse to shocks*, though, in some instances, a strong vibratory action has been used, as a *mechanical stimulus*. The *chemical charge* is what I contemplate; and the stream and torrent of the galvanic fluid are what I generally administer. Should my humble attempts to throw some light on the subject matter of the recent publication of Professor Aldini's meet with your approbation, I may, at a future time, make further communications to you on the employment of galvanism, in cases of suspended animation.

I am, Sirs,

31, Southampton Row,

Russell Square, August 19th, 1819.

Your most obedient & humble Servant,

M. LA BEAUME.

SULPHUROUS FUMIGATION.—Dr. Theodore Hart, member of the faculty of Medical Institution of Paris, has published a treatise on the effects of dry sulphurous vapour, applied to the skin in a variety of diseases, the professed object of which is "to give a general idea of his establishment in London, and of the various diseases to the cure of which he has found it applicable." In an early number we have noticed the reports of Dr. Galés, of Paris, on the superior efficacy of sulphur applied externally, in the form of dry vapour, by means of a machine, invented by him, as a remedy in a variety of diseases of the skin, chronic rheumatism, and palsy. It appears that Dr. Hart, after having assisted Dr. Galés for some time in the application of this remedy, at his establishment in Paris, instituted a similar one at Nancy, which he superintended for many months.

In the treatise before us, Dr. Hart speaks of sulphuric and sulphurous fumigation as the same thing. By sulphuric fumigation, or vapour, a modern chemist would understand that the article employed was the sulphuric acid, and not sulphur. The terms sulphuric and sulphurous are not synonyms. In page 2 he observes, that "he proposes merely to submit to the public a general notion of the application of vapour produced by the combustion of sulphur." Now if combustion be allowed to take place by admitting at-

atmospheric aid, sulphuric acid will be produced, capable of exciting a serious degree of inflammation of the parts of the body exposed to its action. There is a material difference between the vapour of sulphur from combustion, and from sublimation. Dr. Galés, in his letter to us, employing sulphuric and sulphurous as synonymous terms, we requested a friend in Paris to ask him if he calculated on the production of sulphuric acid during the process, and if he supposed the sulphurous vapour was rendered more active in consequence of being accompanied with the acid vapour. These questions the doctor did not understand, but on visiting his establishment shortly afterwards, we ascertained that he had no idea of producing sulphuric acid, and as soon as the sulphur was introduced, an access of atmospheric air was effectually prevented. The beneficial effects of the remedy he therefore entirely attributed to the operation of pure sulphur in a state of warm dry vapour. Dr. Hart's practice is evidently the same, for in speaking of the "chemical properties of the vapour of sulphur," he says, "The vapour contained in the machine is sulphur volatilized by heat, which attaches itself to the bodies with which it comes in contact. It is found crystallized in small needles, of a yellowish white colour, on the body of the patient, and particularly on suppurated pustules, ulcerated surfaces, and blotches."

On the visits we have paid to Dr. Hart's establishment, we have always found him employing the remedy as directed by Dr. Galés. The technical errors in his treatise, are therefore to be solely attributed to his imperfect knowledge of the English language. The diseases, in the cure of which the doctor has found the warm dry sulphurous vapour most efficacious, both at Nancy and in London, are "the itch, ring worm, scald head, chronic rheumatism, palsy, scrofula, glandular obstructions, and chronic enlargement of joints." In the employment of this remedy, the doctor acts more boldly in *chronic* than in *acute* cases; because, says he, in the former the same consequences are not to be apprehended as in the latter. "Proceeding in this manner, he flatters himself that he shall not expose himself to the charge of rashness, or of extending, beyond just bounds, the application of a remedy merely because he had applied it with success in particular cases, and therefore naturally attached to it. Nevertheless, to avoid the appearance of overrating the value of a remedy, which unexpected success is apt to occasion; he has, at various times, consulted physicians of eminence, (whose minds were fortified against the illusions of novelty) which has prevented him from falling into those errors to which his zeal might have exposed him." He asserts, that he never makes a trial of the baths unless he discovered a rational hope of producing a cure, and from this manner of proceeding, no consideration of lucre shall make him deviate. To illustrate the superior efficacy of sulphurous fumigation in the cure of the diseases enumerated above, the doctor has given the result of his experiments at Paris, Nancy, and London. The following case we select from the cures he has effected at his establishment in this country.—"Mrs. R. house-keeper in Upper Grosvenor-street, was afflicted for 5 or 6 months with a sciatic

rheumatism, which occasioned very severe pain, and seldom allowed her any sleep in the night. Her general health was in consequence greatly affected, nor could she derive any benefit from the various remedies prescribed for her by medical men. Having at last recourse to the means of recovery administered at the establishment in Red Lion Square, she commenced the fumigating baths on the 25th of March, and ceased on the 6th of April; having taken 18 baths in 13 days, by which she was completely cured; for she called at the establishment on the 8th of June, in the perfect enjoyment of health."

The few trials that we have made with the machine we received from Dr. Galés, have convinced us that *warm* sulphurous vapour, applied to the surface of the body as directed by him, is a very powerful remedy. In plethoric habits, it occasions a very considerable determination of blood to the head; and therefore for palsy, the sequel of apoplexy, for which it is much extolled, it may occasion serious mischief, if the sanguiferous system should be in a state of plenitude.

DEAFNESS—Sirs,—I do not see any fresh reasoning in the letter of your correspondent, Chemicus, to alter my former opinions as to his knowledge of the subject upon which he writes, or the efficacy of his remedy; but I observe very *sufficient* reason why he should alter his assumed name, and take one more suited to the attainments he appears to have made in chemistry; indeed, although he quotes scraps of French, Latin, and Greek, which may amuse the children of some of your readers to translate, when they come home from *school*, I fear they are only the scraps that have fallen from his master's table, otherwise he would never betray his want of knowledge, both in the science and language, by asking the meaning of *sal volatile*, a name given by the vulgar and unlearned, to the aromatic spirit of ammonia; but which your correspondent ought to know, if he knows any thing of chemistry, was from the year 1720 to 1745 called by the name of *spiritus salis volatilis, oleosus*; from that time till 1787, *spiritus salis aromaticus*; thence till 1809, *spiritus ammoniæ compositus*; and at present, *spiritus ammoniæ aromaticus*.

I shall now beg to call the attention of your readers to a subject, which I hope will be more interesting and useful to them. I have invented an instrument very portable, and convenient for refracting sounds into the ear, and thereby assisting those persons who are deaf, and whose cases admit of no alleviation, or even others for whom there is a hope, whilst they are under any necessary treatment for obtaining an increase of the sense of hearing, it will prove an acquisition, and prevent the mischief constantly resulting from the use of ear trumpets; but as I should not feel it pleasant to my own feelings to sell an article of the kind, any person afflicted with deafness may inspect these instruments at my house, and have them made by their own workmen, without any consideration being expected, or accepted by me.

If I do not intrude too far on your limits, I shall redeem my promise, by mentioning the benefit often rendered from the use

of gargles, in cases of deafness arising from an obstruction in the orifice of the eustachian tube, which frequently take place through the collection of mucus in the upper and middle passage of the nose, which descending over the entrance of the eustachian tubes, produce in some instances a mere film, and in others a more complete obstruction. Gargles used in the common way are productive of little relief, because they are not thrown higher than the lower part of the palate, whereas the orifice of the eustachian tube lies near an inch and a half higher; therefore to use a gargle effectually, the patient should lay down on a bed, sofa, or two chairs, by which means the remedy will reach the part affected. Amongst near a hundred gargles which I have recommended according to various cases, one most generally useful where the system is in a healthy state, I find to be the following; and a gentleman in the same department with myself, having become so far a convert to my doctrine as to follow my prescription with the greatest exactness, and give it as the result of his own researches, I here offer it to the public. In a work I am preparing for the press, on *Nervous Deafness*, or cases said to be so, I intend entering more at large into a consideration of the modes of treatment usually adopted, both by myself and others, with prescriptions for all the preparations that can be safely used without the aid of surgical skill, and with a view to make it more extensively of service, all "*technical phraseology*" and "*uncommon names*" will be avoided.

I am, Sirs, Your obedient servant,
 28, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, W. WRIGHT,
 August 20th, 1819. Surgeon-Aurist to Her late Majesty.

Take Infusion of Roses, 6 ounces;
 Honey of Roses, or Clarified Honey, 1 ounce;
 Tincture of Myrrh, 2 drachms;
 Tincture of Capsicum, from 40 drops to 1 drachm & a half.
 Mix. Make a gargle to be used night and morning.

CHOLERA MORBUS.—For the following judicious remarks on the treatment of this disease, which we understand at this time is very prevalent in many parts of this kingdom, we are indebted to Dr. Vaughan, an able physician of Rochester.

"The result of my observation is, that what is in general unnecessary or prejudicial in cholera morbus, is equally so in the cholera fever. Not one patient in the beginning, increase, or height, of this fever, have I ordered to be blooded—not one to be vomited—not one to be purged; and although in the decline I never objected to the exhibition of the peruvian bark, yet I am of opinion that it is of no real service; but that strength is sooner restored by keeping the bowels free from peccant matter, and by the frequent supply of nourishment easy of digestion, and affording as little *feces* as possible. As soon as I perceive the green *secula*-like matter, I incite its discharge by small doses of Epsom salt, or of soluble tartar, and by as large draughts as I can get the patient to take of thin chicken broth; and from this practice I am not deterred by the proportion of the fluid part of the *feces*, however consi-

derable it may be; for I find if this critical discharge be accidentally stopped, the disease seems to begin again. Besides, I hold that all purging after the final disappearance of the fecula-like matter, is prejudicial, but that the retention of the least of it should be scrupulously guarded against. Accordingly, at this period I add from three to five drops of the tincture of opium to every dose of the neutral salts; and then gradually substitute food for medicine, till the patient asks for meat, and to have any further need of my assistance. Some may accuse me of inert practice; but I shall not consider myself as bound to make them a reply. I have heard and read of cutting diseases short, and I by no means deny that it is sometimes done; but till I shall have obtained far better information on this subject than I yet possess, I shall continue with the persuasion, that if I know the history of a disease from a careful comparison of a number of cases, I can, in a very inferior degree, permit the continuance of nature's operations, when salutary; favour and incite them, when languid; restrain them, when impetuous; and direct, when going wrong."

Dr. V. states that out of a numerous list of patients afflicted with this disease from June to December, he lost but one.

SCIATICA, &c.—The following communication we received from Mr. La Beaume, Medical Electrician, F.L.S. &c. of Southampton Row, Russell Square.

"On the 21st of July, 1818, an officer of rank in the royal navy was recommended to my care by an eminent physician residing in my neighbourhood. When I first saw this patient, he informed me that he had been a great sufferer from rheumatism for the space of *ten years*, which not only affected both his loins and hips, but even extended down to his feet. This complaint, of course, occasioned considerable lameness to the sufferer, which prevented him from taking requisite exercise. His medical friend wished the patient to try the effect of electricity, and supposing him to be under the care of that gentleman, I complied with his request to try the course so recommended.

"On account of the extreme susceptibility of the patient, I employed the electric agent in the mildest form of excitement, and pursued this plan for several days with very little benefit from the application, except the perspiration produced by the force of the acting stimulus. Finding myself disappointed in the efficacy of the remedy, I suspected, from the appearance of the patient, that his painful affections might arise from a bilious derangement.

"I enquired of him, whether he was then under the care of his professional friend? He answered in the negative, declaring, at the same time, that he had been wholly transferred to me, and that he should now be entirely directed by my judgment, and submit to any treatment I might choose to adopt.

"Being thus at perfect liberty to pursue my own course, I required of him to give me as particular an account as he could of the supposed origin and progress of his disorder. The history he gave of his case fully confirmed my previous suspicions; and the following facts left no doubt on my mind of the source of his complaint. He

had at an early age entered into the service of his country, and for the greater part of nineteen years had been actively engaged in foreign stations, particularly in the West Indies: during the time he had resided in that climate, he had several attacks of the fevers common to that country: he had also had many severe fits of illness of a bilious kind, and after one of these he became a constant invalid. I found that the liver of the patient was affected with chronic inflammation, and also considerably enlarged; that its secretions were defective, and his bowels costive. Lumbago and sciatica had ensued as alternate maladies, from which he was seldom free of one or the other.

"On his return to England, the torpor of the liver increased to such an alarming degree, that his life was rendered completely miserable. Various were the distressing sensations of which he complained—his head, his sight, his stomach, right side, bowels, &c. were all less or more affected. The abdomen was considerably enlarged, and the evacuations had the appearance of a morbid affection of the rectum. The tongue was thickly coated with a yellowish fur—the pulse was very languid—the extremities cold; and his corporeal powers sunk into a state of the *lowest debility*. In this stage of the disease he had continued for some time, 'dying,' as he said, 'a lingering death.'

"He was however not wanting in duty to himself, and had therefore had recourse to all the remedies usually applied in the ordinary treatment of liver derangement, under the direction of the most eminent men in London. *Mercury in every form* had been so abundantly administered to him, that he had actually taken some hundred grains of that mineral without affecting his mouth—salivation was never produced; and he was constantly obliged to employ the strongest purges to move the bowels. Stomachics, nervines, and various other medicines, only afforded him temporary relief.

"In this case, as well as many others, I conceived that nothing could relieve the patient of the subsequent disorder, until the visceral disease was first removed: I therefore advised him to try galvanism as a constitutional remedy. This process he commenced on the 8th of August, 1818, and continued it till the latter end of the same month, making in all nineteen applications. By this time the liver regularly performed its office—the bowels required no excitement—the secretions had become healthful—perspiration restored—appetite regained—digestion well performed—the distention of the abdomen removed, and the bulk diminished in an extraordinary degree. But as the pain in the back continued at times to be troublesome, especially in damp and wet weather,—and as the lameness this complaint produced, prevented the patient from taking that share of exercise which he certainly required,—I now resolved to employ the air-pump vapour-bath; this I did with the happiest results. The satisfactory effects produced were an increase of perspiration in the body, and warmth in the parts affected; the left leg and foot felt more comfortable, and he enjoyed a perfect freedom from pain: indeed the benefits he obtained were so very great, as soon to render the use of the air-pump vapour-bath no longer necessary. The sensa-

tions of the patient, as he described them, during the process of fomentation, was a soothing feeling, strongly inclining him to sleep; but that of the exhaustion, an obtuse pain, suddenly shooting from the thigh down to the toes.

On the following morning he declared himself free from any remains of his complaint, and took leave of me as a patient. This gentleman having soon after imprudently exposed himself to the chilling damps of a night air, in an open carriage, he experienced a slight return of his rheumatic complaint; I employed the air-pump vapour-bath once more for his recovery, which was a second time *happily* and *fully accomplished*; I have been since this event frequently favoured with his visits, not only to assure me that his recovery was complete, but to recommend several respectable individuals to my care as patients, who have *all* derived the greatest advantage from my treatment.

Captain P. soon after took a journey into the country for the purpose of visiting some of his family connections in a remote part of the kingdom, and on his return to London a few weeks back, he called on me to communicate the gratifying intelligence, that *every distressing symptom* under which he had so long laboured, were *entirely gone*, and that he had, since he left me, enjoyed an *overflowing state of health*,—that he had long ago thrown aside every restraint of diet, and had, during his stay in Scotland, been exposed to a northern climate, and heavy rains, yet neither the *lumbago* nor the *sciatica* had ever attacked him,—that his leg and foot had ever since been free from the sensation of pain, deadly coldness, and extreme debility that formerly oppressed him, and that he continued to take the most vigorous *foot exercise*, without the least feeling whatever of fatigue.

EPILEPSY.—Mr. Mansford, in his recent publication on the nature and causes of this most distressing malady, to which we alluded in our last number, proposes a mode of treatment founded on a knowledge of the vital principle, which, it appears, in his practice, has been productive of the most beneficial results. The extraordinary effects of galvanism on the living animal machine have induced some philosophers to conclude that the galvanic fluid, or something analogous to it, is the principle of life; but if by principles be meant *first* causes, that cannot be the *principle* of life, which itself requires life, or some power to set it in motion. The secondary agent has been mistaken for the primary mover, and an error of the same kind has been committed by the physiologists in question, as by the heathens in their systems of idolatry, who have almost uniformly mistaken the natural agents for the first cause, and worshipped them; as much so have this class of philosophers, in their systems of animation, mistaken a subordinate and material agent in the mechanism of motion for the moving principle itself, given it a rank and place to which it has no title, and made it the base of much false reasoning.

Life, in the human subject, Mr. Mansford defines to be the union of an immaterial principle with an organized, but inert, body; and if to this principle it is that all sensation is referrible, and from

which all volition and all motion must proceed; it is this alone which, with strict propriety, can be called the vital principle, or, says Mr. W. "if I should be allowed to express myself, I should say, that to the other faculties of the human soul, such as perception, memory, judgment, &c., should also be added the faculty by which it moves, and regulates the body which it inhabits. By the vital principle is then to be understood, the mind itself, or the power or faculty of it, by which, as the first in the order of casualty, all voluntary motions are produced, or involuntary ones preserved and regulated, and all irregular or diseased actions frequently restored to order and health, when left to what is called Nature."

We do not find that the author's theory of animal life differs in any respect to that we have given under the head of Animal Chemistry, in our Chemical Guide. That theory, we find, has been lately adopted in Italy, for the basis of a new system of medicine. When we first published the outlines of it (about ten years ago), it was misrepresented by the editors of some of the Medical Journals, and represented as visionary by others, but by their comments it was very evident that they were totally ignorant of the principles which formed its basis. The author in the introduction, had dared to assert that the then prevailing system of medicine was a system of splendid quackery; and if a system be not founded on a knowledge of the vital principle, to what other denomination is it entitled? The primary moving powers of the human body unquestionably reside in the brain and nerves, and to the state of this system in the treatment of *all* diseases, the properly educated physician will pay particular attention.

Mr. Mansford is of opinion that there are two states of the brain which give rise to epileptic fits; viz. where its organization is not visibly altered, but certain causes, inexplicable in their operation, have rendered it incapable of bearing the excitement of the electric or galvanic stimulus;—the second, where there is an absolute change of structure or condition in the brain, giving rise to a morbid accumulation of electric or nervous fluid, or diminishing its capacity for the natural proportion. Hysteric fits, catalepsy, and Saint Vitus's dance, Mr. Mansford considers to be very closely allied—an opinion in which every man of experience and observation will coincide.

After noticing the effects of galvanism on epileptic subjects, and the different modes of applying it, Mr. Mansford details the method he has found most successful and less inconvenient to the patient. This part we shall give in his own words:—"In order to fulfil the indications, it was necessary to establish a negative point as near to the brain as possible, and a positive one in some distant part of the body.

"Accordingly, a portion of the cuticle of the size of a sixpence being removed by means of a small blister in the back of the neck, as close to the root of the hair as possible, and a similar portion in the hollow beneath, and on the inside of the knee, as the most convenient place: to the wound in the neck, a plate of silver, varying according to the age of the patient, from the size of a sixpence to that of a half-crown, was applied; having affixed to

its back part a handle or shank, and to its lower edge, and parallel with the shank, a small staple, to which the conducting wire was fastened. This wire descended the back till it reached a belt of chamois leather, buttoned round the waist; it then followed the course of the belt to which it was attached, till it arrived opposite the groin on the side it was wished to be used; it then passed down the inside of the thigh, and was fastened to the zinc plate in the same manner as to the silver one. The apparatus so contrived was thus applied:—a small bit of sponge moistened in water, and corresponding in size to the aperture in the neck, was first placed directly upon it; over this a larger piece of sponge, of the same size as the metallic plate, also wetted, was laid; and next to this the plate itself, which was secured in its situation by a strip of adhesive plaister passed through the shank on its back, another above, and another below it. If these be properly placed, and the wire which passes down the back be allowed sufficient room that it may not drag, the plate will not be moved from its position by any ordinary motion of the body. The zinc plate was fastened in the same manner; but in place of the second layer of sponge, a bit of muscle answering in size to the zinc plate was interposed: that is, a small bit of moistened sponge being first fitted to the aperture below the knee, the piece of muscle also wetted then followed, and on this the plate of zinc. The apparatus thus arranged will continue in gentle and uninterrupted action from twelve to twenty-four hours, according to circumstances. This last is the longest period that it can be allowed to go unremoved: the sores require cleaning and dressing, and the surface of the zinc becomes covered with a thick oxyde, which must be removed to restore its freedom of action; this may be done by scraping or polishing; but it will be better if removed twice a day, both for greater security of a permanent action, and for the additional comfort of the patient.

“ There are some circumstances in conducting this process which require a little management. Care must be taken that the metallic plates be kept in close apposition to their respective surfaces, that no irregularity of action may take place. The points of junction also between the plates and the conducting wire, are apt to become oxydised, by which their conducting power is diminished or totally destroyed: on this account they require to be frequently renewed. There is a remarkable difference in the disposition of the two apertures; the one in the neck in contact with the silver, being inclined to close and heal rapidly, if the pressure be removed or slackened. When this is the case, a slight touch with the *potassa fusa* will restore it to its proper state, with only a momentary uneasiness to the patient. The other, which is acted on by the zinc, on the contrary, will occasionally shew a tendency to become irritable, and to spread.—When this disposition appears, the edge of the sore must be nicely guarded by small slips of plaister placed in a radiated form, from the centre outwards, leaving a small opening in the middle. The hard edge of the zinc plate will also, if suffered to press upon the surrounding skin,

excite inflammation, or produce small eschars. To obviate this inconvenience, the bit of muscle may be cut rather larger than the metal, so as to act as a cushion around it; or the skin may be shielded by a circular strip of plaister. A small band or ribbon, when a garter is not worn in that situation, may be tied round the thigh, a little above the knee; which will contribute to steady the conducting wire, and prevent its dragging upon the plate. One may also be passed below the knee, over the plate itself for additional security.

"Attention to these circumstances will answer all the purposes desired, and render the apparatus easy and comfortable, so that it may be worn for any length of time without inconvenience to the motions of the body, or the customary exercise and habits of life, and will very seldom excite pain. It has been continued under my inspection for several months without complaint; and there are, I should think, very few who would hesitate to submit to the little inconvenience attending the use of this remedy, with the hope of eradicating one of the most distressing of human afflictions. It was endeavoured to substitute a chain for the conducting wire, as more durable and pliant, and the smallest kind of Maltese chain was tried, but it did not succeed. A gold chain of the same description was found equally unsuccessful; and the wire was necessarily resumed. But as a single wire was apt to break, three or four very fine and well annealed copper wires were employed; which were sufficiently pliant, and afforded a security in the case of the rupture of one or more of them, for the continuation of the action of the instrument by the rest.

"The effect of this mode of treatment on the first case in which it was tried, was equally striking and gratifying. The theory which had been entertained, and the practice which it had led to, appeared reciprocally to elucidate and to support each other; and subsequent trials, as the subjoined cases will shew, tended in no ways to lessen the faith which from the result of this case was naturally reposed in it; and whether we view it as efficient in itself, or as an auxiliary only, will be of little consequence, if it be found of the same value in the hands of others, as it has been in my own.

"The plan above recommended, of course, does not preclude the use of other appropriate remedies. The state of the constitution; and the various circumstances operating as exciting causes to the disease, must be minutely attended to, for without subduing these, all efforts to remove the proximate cause must necessarily be unavailing. Foremost of these causes which come within our cognizance, and claiming a prominent attention before all others, is the state of the circulation; both as regards the quantity of the contained fluids, and the force with which they may be urged through the system generally, or with unequal impetus to any part of it, especially the head."

Attention must also be paid to the state of the stomach and intestines. He likewise lays much stress on the necessity of adopting a regular mode of living, and of avoiding high-seasoned dishes and stimulating liquors.

To illustrate the curative effects of this galvanic mode of treatment, the author details nine cases, the decisive characters of which are unquestionably sufficient to establish its utility as well as the rationality of the principles on which it is founded.

MINERAL WATERS.—A Doctor Mackenzie has published, "*Practical Observations on the Medical Powers of the most celebrated Mineral Water, and the various Modes of Bathing,—for the Use of Invalids.*" *Mineral* waters he defines to be, "*All waters which are impregnated with foreign matter, so as to be capable of exerting specific chemical actions, or of producing changes in the living system, because their agents being usually substances derived from the mineral kingdom*"! He has divided them according to their "*medical operations,*" into *cold* diluent, *tepid* diluent, diuretic, *cold* stimulant, *hot* stimulant, tonic, tonic and aperient, &c. He has avoided "all scrupulous chemical enquiries and discussions, as incompatible with his object, confining himself with a plain statement of medical facts only; the work being intended for the valetudinarian, and not for the *critical* eye of *general* science, nor of the medical profession. Should the *result* be successful," he says, "I shall not repent of my labour." He commences with the Malvern water, which, for its *sanctity*, he says, is termed the Holy Well. Speaking of its medicinal properties, he observes, "The remarkable purity of this water, whereby it is *enabled* to pervade the *minutest* vessels of the body, and to wash *away* as it were *all* impurities, and obstruct viscidities, seems to be the sole *cause* of its medicinal powers."—Admirable physician!! what an accurate idea the learned doctor must have of the digestive process, as to suppose that the water is conveyed to the circulation, in the state in which it enters the stomach. In noticing its composition, he states, "Its contents are a *minute* proportion of carbonic acid, in an *uncombined* state: a very small quantity of earthy matter, *perhaps* a very little *neutral alkaline* salt, and a *very large proportion* of water"!!—most scientific chemist!!—a *neutral alkaline* salt!! The author very wisely avoided *chemical* discussion;—had he lived three thousand years ago, he would no doubt have been considered a wonderfully great physician. In these days, the author's work has *medical* admirers; in the London Physical Journal, and the Medical Repository, it is spoken of in terms of approbation. Intimacy or relationship, however long or near, cannot justify the Editors of scientific works, in giving a book an unmerited character, merely to induce their readers to purchase it. Nothing has tended more to check the progress of medicine, than the *friendly* criticisms which have appeared in many journals. Of all the modern works we have read, we have no hesitation in saying, that the one before us is the most contemptible. We hope the Editors of the journals noticed above, will, in future, have a greater regard for their own reputation and the purses of their readers, to recommend such miserable nonsense to their attention.

COW POX.—Mr. Gaitakell, an eminent surgeon of Rotherhithe, has published two cases of small pox subsequent to cow pox, which lately occurred in his practice. The subjects were apprentices to the Messrs. Bennetts, oil-merchants, of that place. "The

first, William Oram, a stout young man, eighteen years of age, was vaccinated about two years ago at Kenningdon, in Berkshire, took the small pox, and died on the twelfth day a mass of putrefaction. The second, Jacob Clargo, about twenty-two years of age, was vaccinated twelve years since, by Mr. Skee, a respectable surgeon of Hywith, Wiltshire. He is now labouring under small pox of a very malignant description. Both these young men were supposed to have gone through a regular vaccination, were pronounced safe (according to their own statements), and have distinct impressions of disease on their arms. Unfortunately for this neighbourhood, the small pox has been very prevalent within the last three months, and, I am concerned to say, very fatal. It originated in the officious and cruel interference of a common sawyer, and other indiscreet persons, who offered and pressed gratuitous variolous inoculation. The boon was eagerly accepted, and many were the victims of this folly. Since this, seven more cases of small pox have occurred, subsequent to supposed perfect vaccination. Dr. Sheriffe, jun. of Deptford, some months ago related to me several cases of variolous disease subsequent to vaccination. These patients were inoculated by his father."

In a second communication Mr. Gaitskell observes, "Since I wrote to you on the subject of small pox subsequent to cow pox, my recollection has furnished me with two other cases, which were of a mild nature. The subjects were children; and, under the impressions of the complaint being chicken pox, they were visited by a neighbour's child, who received the infection, and died on the twelfth day of a most putrid small pox. Messrs. Bennett's man, who died of putrid small pox, infected three children in the same house, all of which had a mild disease, and recovered."

"The five children infected with small pox in my recent report to you, lived at Staines. There were distinct marks on both arms of them all, and they were pronounced safe by the medical gentleman that inoculated them.

"The people of my neighbourhood have become so shy of vaccination lately, that I am obliged to promise to test them with small pox matter in the winter, to induce submission to the operation."

It is with feelings of great regret that we record a most melancholy case of the fatal termination of cow pox, in the family of the Rev. Mr. Chaunev, of Kempton, in Hertfordshire. The subject, a fine boy only nine months old, was apparently in a state of perfect health, when the disease was communicated to him by a Mr. Lucas, a surgeon in the neighbourhood. The matter was applied in the usual place of the left arm, and the inflammation and its consequences advanced favourably till the ninth day, when the arm became tumified, and the skin exhibited an erysipelatous appearance. The mischief spread to the chest, neck, &c. so rapidly, that in a few days his sufferings were most distressing. Mortification soon ensued, which, in a few hours, closed the melancholy scene. The surgeon and the directors of the Vaccine Institution, who supplied the matter, (with whom the disconsolate father of the infant has had a long correspondence on the subject) say in their defence, that cow pox only brought a constitutional disease into action, which would

probably have come on, and terminated life, had he not have been vaccinated. Now had small pox matter been employed, would the same consequences have followed? Did *erysipelatous* inflammation ever follow inoculation with small pox matter? and does it not, more or less, always succeed the introduction of cow pox matter? We have frequently witnessed, in our own practice, and in the practice of others, erysipelatous inflammation after vaccination, to a most alarming degree, some cases of which ended fatally, and others in considerable sloughing, and these consequences we noticed many years ago as a great objection to the disease. Indeed, Dr. Marshall, who acted with Dr. Jenner in promulgating the supposed preventive powers of cow pox against small pox, recommended the writer twenty years ago to apply the vitriolic acid to the inoculated part, after the system was affected, for the purpose of preventing the secondary inflammation, which he admitted had, in his practice, advanced to a most unpleasant degree.

The unfortunate result of this case has so completely destroyed the little confidence that remained in the preventive powers of vaccination in Hertfordshire, that the members of the profession residing in it will be under the necessity of abandoning it.

PRESERVATION OF MEAT.—A M. Monge, of Paris, in a letter to Professor Van Mons states, that he has discovered that the pyroligneous acid obtained from the distillation of wood has the property of preventing the decomposition and putrefaction of animal substances. He says, "It is sufficient to plunge meat for a few moments into this acid, even slightly empyreumatic, to preserve it as long as you please. Cutlets, kidneys, liver, rabbits, which were thus prepared as far back as July last, are now as fresh as if they had been just procured from the market. I have seen, says he, carcasses washed three weeks ago with pyroligneous acid, in which there is as yet no sign of decomposition. Putrefaction not only stops, but it even retrogrades. Jakes exhaling infection cease to do so as soon as you pour upon them the pyroligneous acid. You may judge how many important applications may be made of this process. Navigation, medicine, unwholesome manufactories, will derive incalculable advantages from it. This explains why meat merely dried in a stove does not keep, while that which is smoked becomes unalterable. We have here an explanation of the theory of hams, of the beef of Hamburg, of smoked tongues, sausages, red herrings, of wood smoked to preserve it from worms, &c. &c."

"Dr. Jorg, Professor at Leipsic, has since made many successful experiments of the same nature. He has entirely recovered several anatomical preparations from incipient corruption, by pouring this acid over them. With the oil which is produced from wood by distillation in the dry manner, he has moistened pieces of flesh already advanced in decay; and, notwithstanding the heat of the weather, soon made them as dry and firm as flesh can be rendered by being smoked in the smoking-room. All traces of corruption vanish at once when the *vinegar of wood*, or the *oil of wood*, is applied to the meat with a brush. The professor has also begun to prepare mummies of animals, and has no doubt of success. He

promises great advantages to anatomy, domestic economy, and even to medicine, from this discovery (for the remedy seems very fit to be applied internally and externally in many disorders), and intends to publish the result of his further experiments."

For their knowledge of the preservative powers of this acid, we can, from most satisfactory authority, state, that these gentlemen are indebted to the account we have given of them in an early number. The articles to which we applied it twelve months ago, although then in a state of putrefaction, are, at this time, perfectly sweet. One is a leg of mutton, which the butcher had put aside to throw into the Thames; and the other tongues, which were deemed unsaleable.

The following means of preserving provisions, were lately communicated by a Dr. MacSweeny, of London, in a letter to Mr. Tilloch. "A considerable time ago," says the doctor, "I had determined to commence experiments to try to preserve meat by keeping it in water, (previously boiled) covered with a layer of oil to protect it from the agency of the atmosphere. After reading the interesting experiments of Dr. Marshal Hall, I resolved to add bright pieces of iron or iron-filings to the water, for the purpose of depriving it of the oxygen not expelled by boiling. It is now more than seven weeks since I put some fresh meat with iron in water, boiled and covered with a thick layer of oil. The meat has exactly the same appearance now that it had the first day. It may be necessary to add, that I kept the glass vessel containing it in a dark place. Vegetable substances may be preserved in the same way. Delicate substances of this kind when kept in a dark place, appear only to suffer from the solvent power of the water, which may be diminished by adding sugar and gum. In the same way cutlery may be kept untarnished, when the precaution is taken of adding some iron-filings or bright pieces of iron to the water some time beforehand. After twenty-six days I removed a piece of iron from a solution of common salt covered with oil, and found it not tarnished in any degree. Goods of every kind may be preserved from decay on the same principle. Lest any, such as linen or cotton goods, might suffer from the iron, it should be put in small timber boxes, and let down through the oil into the water, so that it could abstract the oxygen without coming in contact with the goods.

"When it is necessary to remove meat for use, it can be taken out of the vessel without allowing it to come in contact with the oil. By pouring in water, the oil will ascend and will flow over the edge of the vessel containing the meat into one placed underneath to receive it; thus the meat can be easily removed, and the oil will not be wasted. Fresh water can be preserved in like manner, in situations where it is scarce, by covering its surface with oil, and by putting bright pieces of iron in it."

SAINT VITUS'S DANCE.—Dr. Watts, an eminent physician of New York, has published a case of this disease in which the free exhibition of the tincture of castor, and firm application of flannel rollers to the affected extremities, proved successful after the usual treatment, by the internal use of the Peruvian bark, generous diet,

and cold bath, had totally failed to afford the smallest relief. The good effects of the rollers, in controlling the irregular action of the muscles, he says, were very apparent; for the symptoms of the disease for some time *always* returned when they were removed or slackened. In a few weeks the patient was able to walk. The tincture of castor was administered in the dose of two tea-spoonsful three times a day in a little water. When the symptoms subsided, the volatile tincture of valerian, tincture of iron, and laxative medicines, were employed to restore the patient to perfect health.

SUSPENDED ANIMATION from DROWNING.—In a communication on the means of recovery in cases of suspension of life from submersion, Dr. Stevens, an American physician, recommends measures to be immediately adopted to produce respiration, the most effectual of which he has found to be “rolling the patient on a cask”! Why not *in* a cask? He condemns the use of injections of tobacco-smoke into the intestines, a practice which, although at one time highly extolled by the Humane Society of this country, as a powerful auxiliary to the other means, has long been abandoned in Europe.

INFLAMMATION.—A surgeon to a London Hospital informs us, that after abandoning fomentations in cases of inflammation attendant on accidents, in consequence of having found their long-continued use, or frequent repetition, to aggravate the mischief, and, in some instances, to promote suppuration, where the object was to effect resolution; he has lately found fomentation with warm water, continued only ten minutes, highly beneficial, when immediately followed by an application of a *cold* lotion, especially the common one, of extract of lead (two drachms), soft water (one pint), and rectified spirit of wine (two ounces). He adds, that the good effects of this treatment he attributes to the warm vapour allaying the irritation of the nerves, and consequently the spasmodic affection of the muscular fibres, when the application of cold, or an evaporating lotion has a most powerful effect on the distended blood-vessels. In cases of inflammation of the eyes, and acute rheumatism, he has also found this practice wonderfully beneficial.

EFFECTS OF LIGHTNING.—The following case of injury by lightning, communicated by Dr. Stevens, does him more credit than his remarks on the treatment of suspended animation from submersion.

“I. Stones was brought into the New York Hospital on the 29th April 1818, having been struck with lightning a week previous on board the ship *Sea-Fox*, Captain Fanning, off New-London. It appeared that his left hand grasped a rope, which he was drawing down; his left foot was probably at the same moment raised from the deck of the vessel. The electric fluid, in descending the rope, had passed diagonally across his body from the left hand to the right foot, injuring in its passage the intermediate viscera, and a considerable breadth of external integuments. A reflected operation had also involved the left side of the neck and head. The whole surface of the affected skin was blistered, as if with hot water; and numerous points were scattered over it, resembling punctures with a fork

or sail. The poor fellow exhibited no signs of life for several hours after the stroke. Nothing had been done for him before he was brought to the hospital. His skin was heated and dry, his breathing laborious, his pulse strong and frequent, his tongue white and dry, and his pupils dilated. Under these circumstances, I directed the vesicated parts to be covered with the ordinary lime-water liniment. Venesection and the antiphlogistic treatment, together with the compound powder ipecac. and antimonials, were accordingly directed. Notwithstanding the typhoid heat of the skin, dilated pupil, occasional delirium, and great nervous agitation, the amount of blood drawn within ten days was about 120 ounces: it constantly exhibited the buffy coat. The recovery of the patient, a long time doubtful, and protracted by great nervous debility, was at length completed; and, at the expiration of seven weeks, except a degree of weakness in the right knee, his health was perfectly re-established."

PRUSSIC ACID.—In the last number of the Medical Repository, Dr. Uwins has introduced the following letter on this potent remedy, which, he exultingly states, he received from a very *eminent* physician in the metropolis, and, "as *high* authority, he feelingly regrets that he is not permitted by him to use his name."

Dear Sir,—I have used the Prussic acid as prepared by Garden, and also at the Hall, in, I believe, between *thirty* and *forty* cases, chiefly *pectoral*. Its *sensible* effects in the dose of one or two drops, have hardly been perceptible. When carried as far as *four*, it has produced sickness and vomiting, and also occasioned head-ache, with some confusion. As to its *medicinal* powers, I am not inclined to think highly of it. I have seen no unequivocal proof of its utility, either in pulmonary consumption or catarrh, though a few *patients* have thought *themselves* the better for it. But this is probably from *novelty* merely. I could not perceive *any* effect from it on the *vascular* action of the system, and do not see *how*, without *this*, it can effect much in such diseases. I do not consider my *experience* such as to warrant my giving my name to this communication. I shall be glad if it is of any use to you in a different way.

"I am yours very truly."

It certainly was necessary that Dr. Uwins should have informed his readers, that this letter came from an eminent physician; for there is nothing in it that would have led them to have given him credit for having so *respectable* a correspondent, or to attach that consequence to it, to which, in his opinion, it is entitled. For our own part, we should think there is not an apothecary in London, who would not be ashamed of the composition. Because the Prussic acid had no influence in the vascular system, he could not see how it could have any beneficial effect in *pectoral* complaints!! It assuredly allays irritation; and is not this an effect of the first importance in organic affections of the lungs? The acid prepared by Garden, we have known exhibited to the extent of twenty drops without producing any effect whatever; and on the same patient, the acid obtained at the Medical Hall, Piccadilly, in the dose of two drops, had the happy effects of quieting the disease of the chest, allaying cough,

facilitating breathing, and even of diminishing vascular action. The effects of this medicine require to be carefully watched, and the patient, during its use, should be seen at least twice a day. It is a most powerful poison, and we advise Dr. Uwins to acquaint his high authority, that in the hands of *ignorance*, it has already been productive of the most serious consequences.

ABSCCESS ON THE UPPER SURFACE OF THE LIVER.—Mr. Blacket, a surgeon of the Royal Navy, on examining the body of a man, aged 45, who died of an “abscess on the upper surface of the liver, next the diaphragm, to which it adhered,” discovered a needle in it, about an inch long; towards the point it was of a black colour, and rusty about the eye. The man followed the trade of a taylor, during his youth. Mr. Blacket supposes that the needle had been nearly twenty-six years in his body. He had for many years complained of a pain in the region of the liver, and for the last seven years had been subject to cough. Mr. Blacket concludes his narrative of the case with the following sensible observation:—“It is sufficiently obvious that nothing could have saved this man’s life, as it was out of the question to cut in the dark for a thing, even the existence of which could never have been *à priori* expected.”

FEMALE ABDOMINAL BANDAGES.—Many are the contrivances that have been publicly recommended to the attention of females to support the bowels of those who have had many children, or who are disposed to muscular relaxation or corpulency. We have heard of patent anatomical stays, anatomical bandages, female supporters, &c. spoken of in high terms of commendation by the *inventors*; but from those who have given them a trial, we have heard of much serious inconvenience, and even of prolapsus and rupture being produced by their pressing the bowels downwards. We have seen a letter from the experienced and observant Dr. Coley, of Cheltenham, addressed to Messrs. Baker and Son, in which he states that “his experience, which has been extensive, has confirmed the superiority of their male and female abdominal bandages over every other invention of the kind; and in the many cases he has recommended them, they have uniformly answered his expectation, and given perfect satisfaction to the patients.” The importance of this bandage in a variety of diseases to which males as well as females are subject, we have noticed in two or three of our early numbers.

MAGNESIA.—A correspondent informs us, that he has found the magnesia prepared by Mr. Lockyer, a respectable chemist of London, to answer much better in neutralizing acid matter in the stomach, and in operating on the bowels, than that prepared by Mr. Henry of Manchester. The magnesia made by Mr. Lockyer is so much more ponderous than that made by Mr. Henry, that a tea-spoonful, by weight, is equal to a desert-spoonful of Mr. Henry’s. It is insoluble in the dilute sulphuric acid of the College, but perfectly so in sulphuric acid, diluted with an equal quantity of water. We suspect that it is made as we have suggested in our translation of the London Pharmacopœia, by decomposing the sulphate of magnesia with pure potass. Mr. Lockyer’s magnesia is in very fine powder, and, suspended in water, is very pleasant to

the palate, not leaving any sensation of roughness. Being desirous that it should have an extensive trial, he has sent a quantity to the Medical Hall, 171, Piccadilly, for that purpose. It is considerably cheaper than Mr. Henry's preparation, and we must do Mr. Lockyer the justice to say, that it is pure. We advise Mr. Henry to examine it, and if the results should confirm our reports of it, we shall be very happy to give them a place in our work.

LEECHES.—We noticed in our 38th number, the death of a child in consequence of excessive bleeding by leeches, and other cases where the puncture of the French leech had proved injurious. We are happy to find this has called forth the attention of one of the regular cuppers of the metropolis, Mr. Leese, of Great Russell Street, who has announced to the faculty that he keeps a large quantity of leeches, and attends personally to apply them. At Birmingham, we are informed, it is the common practice to apply leeches, and after they come off, cupping glasses over the punctures instead of scarification; and a correspondent assures us, that he obtained by this method the quantity of blood desired by the physician to be abstracted from the head in a serious case, after a very excellent cupper had completely failed.

FLIES.—A correspondent in Wales informs us, that in consequence of observing no flies in the neighbourhood of the place in which the pyroligneous acid is prepared, he was induced to place in a room of his house, in which they assembled in considerable quantity, a little of the *impure* acid, the effect of which was, they almost immediately quitted the apartment. He adds, that he has ascertained that the fly-water, sold for destroying flies, a solution of arsenic and sugar in water, attracts flies from a considerable distance, and therefore does much more mischief than good. One day he reckoned two hundred dead flies around the saucer containing the fly-water, but he was satisfied that it attracted five hundred more than he should have had if he had not used it.

FROGS.—A correspondent enquires, What is the most efficacious method of destroying frogs? We understand that fresh beef cut in the shape of small worms, with about a grain of arsenic powder, introduced into the centre, has been employed, for this purpose, with success. The pieces are to be distributed over the place they frequent late in the evening.

MEDICAL COMBINATION.—A correspondent who has been *reeced* by the *respectable* medical combination at Brighton, has forwarded to us the bill which he received from the chemist on leaving the town. The amount for three weeks is *only* 26l. 10s. 6d.

The following extract is for *one* day:—

	£.	s.	d.
June 20th, 1819 Six Leeches	0	9	0
Mr. B's attendance and application of ditto	0	10	6
Six Febrifuge Draughts	0	12	0
One Night ditto	0	2	0
An Alterative Bolus	0	1	6
An Aperient Draught	0	2	0
Attendance of Dr. —	1	1	0
	<hr/>		
	£.2	18	0

STRICTURE.—A merchant's clerk, experiencing an unpleasant sensation about the prostate gland on evacuating his bladder, fancied he had a stricture. He accordingly applied to Mr. Lynch, of advertising celebrity, for his advice. This gentleman, after listening attentively to his narrative, confirmed his suspicion, adding that it was a constitutional stricture, and therefore the kind to which his mode of treatment was applicable. He supplied him with a box of medicine, for which he demanded *only* five guineas! It contained two bottles of common oil, one of which was titled *botanical* oil, and the other *oriental* oil. With these oils he was directed to lubricate both passages by means of syringes; and while he was thus attacking the enemy in his den, he was to swallow a quantity of the medicine contained in the other bottles, (a decoction of simple herbs,) in order to annoy him through the medium of the constitution. The patient being persuaded by the arguments of Mungo, that *constitutional* stricture is the mere effect of dryness of the part, he thought that by regularly greasing the passages, he should effectually remove the cause. He accordingly persevered until he had expended all the money he had been able to save, (about thirty pounds,) when he was under the necessity of applying to an hospital,—the humane Mungo having declined to give him credit. He had experienced from this mode of treatment no relief whatever; and on examination of the seat of his complaint, the surgeon found him entirely free from stricture, the inconvenience he suffered arising from tumefaction of the prostate gland!!

Mr. Lynch, we are informed, declares, with an air of exultation, that he has as much right to practise his profession in the metropolis, as the learned Presidents of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, having a licence from government to dispense his medicines! We beg to inform him that that licence does not authorise him to practise impositions on the ignorant and credulous, and that if a patient were to summon him before a magistrate, on the charge of extortion and imposture, he would meet with his deserts.

CHELTEMHAM SALTS, &c. &c.—We have received a copy of an Address to the Public, which has been very industriously circulated in Cheltenham, by Mr. Henry Thompson, on the virtues of the different salts he procures from his mineral waters by evaporation, &c. &c. &c., at his laboratory at Cheltenham, and on the superiority of his baths, &c. &c. The profound knowledge of *practical* chemistry this gentleman boasts of possessing to his ignorant visitors, he supposes to justify the adoption of new *chemical* names.—In speaking of *his* vapour bath, he says, "That the vapour arises from the *constant* evaporation of the *sulphated* saline water, from which his *alkaline* and *magnesian* salts are produced." Now the salts with which his water is impregnated, are all in a neutral state, and therefore the term *sulphated* is improper, for by it a *chemist* would understand that sulphuric acid was in an uncombined state. After having been engaged twenty years in evaporating many tons of his saline waters daily, this conscientious and observant chemist does not seem to be aware, that the vapour, "arising from the evaporation," is free from saline particles, and cannot possess any advantage over that from common water. The circumstances that entitle the

real Cheltenham salts, made by him, to a preference, are, 1stly, "They are obtained by the *natural* effects of *heat* to evaporate;" 2dly, "*cold* to crystallize;" and, 3dly, "general warmth by steam in pipes to effloresce"!!—most admirable chemist! His salts, he asserts, consist of *alkaline sulphat*.—By this term, a chemist would expect to find the article a subsulphate, i. e. an alkali predominating. The salt, bearing this fine sounding name, we find on examination to be a sulphate of soda—a perfectly neutral salt, differing in no respect whatever from the salt vulgarly termed, Glauber salts, and which are now sold at Lymington, in Hampshire, at two-pence half-penny per pound, but which, at Cheltenham, evaporated by *heat*, and crystallized by *cold*, are sold at the moderate price of twelve shillings;—so much for fine sounding *scientific* names. We beg to ask the learned chemist, if he ever heard of evaporation without heat, or of crystallization, in his own scientific language, without cold? The second sort is, *magnesian sulphate*,—a name equally as ridiculous as the foregoing; for magnesia, neutralized by the *sulphuric* acid, possesses none of the peculiar medicinal virtues of *magnesia*. This salt we find to be the article and nothing but the article which is vulgarly termed Epsom salt, and which is now sold at Lymington at two-pence half-penny per pound.—At Cheltenham, under the imposing scientific name of magnesia sulphate, the same quantity will bring twelve shillings!! His murio-sulphate of magnesia and iron, which is in crystals, he says, are given by nature for the *union* of magnesia and iron in crystals, chemistry, he asserts, cannot produce"!! In common language, the composition of this salt is Epsom salt, and muriate of iron; what the *learned* gentleman means to infer by "given by nature," we are at a loss to conjecture.—If he means to assert that he collects this compound salt in crystals in his wells, we can say, that he is the only man in the world that has discovered it in that state; and that there is not a chemist in this kingdom that would not laugh at the idea. If he procures them by evaporation by *heat*, surely then they are produced by chemistry; but, even in that case, the crystals would form separately, the muriate of iron being green, (differing in no respect from the article sold under the name of green copperas, which is now made with the *muriatic* acid, as well as the *sulphuric*;)—but the iron in the mineral waters of Cheltenham we have found to be held in solution by the *carbonic* acid, which, during evaporation, is dissipated, and the iron in consequence precipitated in a power insoluble in water. The magnesia prepared by him, he says, "exceeds in *virtue* all the magnesia got from Epsom salts."—We discover not the smallest difference between the magnesia obtained from the Cheltenham water, and that from Epsom salt, or sea water: magnesian earth, obtained in different parts of this country, is the same. The magnesia sold at sixteen shillings a pound at the Medical Hall in Piccadilly, we assert, will operate more efficaciously than that sold at nearly three times that price by Mr. Thompson, because it is more free from *carbonic acid*. Now on adding the Cheltenham magnesia to the dilute sulphuric acid, an effervescence takes place,—a proof that it is not a *pure* magnesia. Distilled water, impregnated with magnesia, this learned chemist declares to be "*tonic alone*," so that we may soon expect

to hear of a *tonic magnesia*, and of the discoverer styling himself a *physician*, to which, in our humble opinion, his *practical* remarks give him as strong a title as to that of chemist.

Both the carbonate and calcined magnesia this chemist has discovered "occasionally mixed in a *natural* magnesian water."—*Calcined* magnesia in a *natural* magnesian water!!!—This is indeed such an extraordinary discovery, that we are astonished that *his particular friend*, Mr. Blande, has not noticed it in his *Journal of Science*. The discovery is probably not complete, for he promises, "when he is more at leisure, to let a little carbonic acid be given by a soda-water machine to this phenomenon of a mixture in common or distilled water, in a perfect bright state"!!!—What a most interesting, most scientific experiment this will be!! We hope it will be made in the presence of all his female domestics, and the antiquated old maids of Cheltenham.

In an article on the Cheltenham salts, in an early number, (which induced Mr. Thompson politely to send his son to acquaint us with his determination to prosecute us both *criminally* and *civilly* for the libel, but which he *civilly* declined to do, in consequence of our expressing a wish that he would give us an opportunity to justify, in a court of justice), we have stated, that we had been informed by a gentleman, residing in Cheltenham, who could prove the fact, that many tons of common Glauber's salts, made at Lymington, were forwarded to Cheltenham. This fact may account for the water of certain wells not being weakened by the evaporation of nearly *two thousand gallons* daily!!!

Mr. Thompson, in consequence of its having been ascertained that several shops in London, in Cheltenham, and indeed elsewhere, sell a *spurious* article for the *real* Cheltenham salts, *humanely* informs his readers that "the *real* salts are sold at *his laboratory* in Cheltenham, and at *his depot* in London." Now, notwithstanding the learned chemist's remarks on the products of nature, and of chemistry, we have met with salts which possess *all* the medicinal virtues of the Cheltenham spa. They contain sulphate of soda, sulphate of magnesia, muriate of magnesia, and iron; and if Mr. Thompson, instead of setting the water aside on the appearance of a pellicle, that crystals may form, was to continue the evaporation nearly to dryness, and to add a little muriatic acid to prevent the precipitation of iron on the dissipation of the fixed air, which kept it in solution, he might, as Mr. Bevan has long done, obtain a product possessing the medicinal virtues of the water.

JACKSON'S HEPATIC PILLS,—Prepared by Richard Jackson, professor of animal medicine; an infallible remedy for bilious affections, eruptions of the skin, nervous head-ache, gout, rheumatism, &c. &c. "Nearly all the diseases that attack the English, have been very justly attributed to the liver; but no author," says the professor, "has yet accounted for the immediate cause.—The fact is, and I hope that my countrymen will ever allow me the merit of the most important discovery, the liver, by being over stimulated by spirituous liquors, loses its power of discharging the bile; the consequence of which is, this fluid becomes acrid, and on being conveyed to the blood, excites diseases in different parts of the body; in the skin, producing a variety of eruptions; in the membranes of joints, the gout and rheumatism; in the brain, morbid irritation, and not unfrequently insanity;

in the stomach, indigestion; and when all these come into action together, fevers of the most malignant kind ensue, putting to defiance all *regular treatment*!! If his readers should think his opinions unworthy of notice because they come from a professor of animal medicine, he says, "I can tell them, that to animal medicine the medical profession of this country is indebted for many important discoveries; to it Mr. Abernethy is indebted for his *fecal doctrines*!! The Hepatic Pills, he assures his readers, "operate *immediately* on the seat of the disease, and by enabling the liver to disgorge it of peccant bile, thereby effectually restore the patient to health. The cures they have effected have been so astonishing as to surprise himself.—Lords and ladies flock to him to acknowledge their superior efficacy, and many a young lady is indebted to their purifying effects on the skin, and the sweetening effects on their breath, for the present exalted stations they enjoy in life"!! On examining these pills, we find them to be composed of the *common horse aloes* and ginger powder!!!—The contents of a three shilling and sixpenny box cost the *professor* three farthings!!—So much for the conscience of a professor of animal medicine.

A popular aperient pill is no doubt necessary, and no form being given in any of our Pharmacopœias for one, all retail chemists have some nostrum of the kind. The Bengal aperient antibilious pills we have recommended in some of our former numbers, because they are the composition of a physician, who, during his residence in the East Indies, had found them very beneficial; and we have met with many gentlemen, medical and non-medical, who have derived more benefit from them than any other medicine. They not only effectually empty the intestinal canal, but the appearance of the feces, and the improved state of health that follow their use, prove that they act on the viscera, and that they are a good constitutional physic.

REPORT OF DISEASES.—Dysentery and bilious diarrhœa have, within the three last weeks, been very prevalent; and we have heard of the latter having proved fatal to many out-patients of the London Hospitals and Dispensaries. The chalk mixture generally resorted to, (after an aperient) has generally proved hurtful, by increasing the attendant fever, and producing a most distressing sensation of oppression and fulness in the epigastric regions. The saline mixture in a state of effervescence, we have found particularly grateful and refreshing to the patients, and uniformly to check the violence both of dysentery and diarrhœa. It has been used more as the common beverage than as a medicine. In some instances, attended with considerable thirst and fever, it has been taken to the extent of three pints in the course of twelve hours. Its effects in allaying spasms of the stomach, and diminishing the frequency of evacuations, were very evident. At Margate, Brighton, and Worthing, bowel complaints, as they are termed, have been very general; and under the care of routine physicians, who think of nothing but chalk in such cases, it has proved very obstinate. Small pox continues to prevail throughout the island, and the contagion not being resisted by subjects, who had gone through vaccination to the perfect satisfaction of the medical men who communicated the disease, instances of failures of the cow pox have in every county so multiplied, that they no longer excite attention. The demand for cow pox matter at the National Vaccine Institution, has in consequence nearly ceased. In Norfolk, the failures of cow pox, and the fatal termination of small pox, have been, and we are fearful continue to be very

numerous. Many gouty subjects who have had recourse to the eau medicinale and other vegetable poisons, to procure a respite from pain, complain of being constantly subject to flying gouty pains, and of general debility of the muscular system. Some have been restored to health, by persisting in the use of the mixture of Peruvian bark, lime water, &c. recommended by the late Dr. Hutchinson, of Dublin, (noticed in our 29th number). Galvanism and the factitious gases in cases of general nervous debility and dropsy, have been very successfully employed. The late Dr. Willan and others, supposed that these remedies had had a fair trial under the direction of a Mr. Wilkinson and the late Dr. Beddoes, and that the results were such that could not induce any *thinking* physician to repeat their experiments. Subsequent experience has proved that these remedies were never judiciously administered, but that they were merely puffed off to attract the attention of invalids; they were, in fact, used as *baits*, to entrap the credulous and unwary. Galvanism, being an immediate application to the primary moving powers of the system, is doubtless an important remedy, and under the superintendence of M. La Baume, has been administered in cases of debility with the most decided benefit, indisputable evidence of which have appeared in our pages. We have also met with many cases of dropsy, chronic difficulty of breathing, and general debility, in which oxygene inhaled to the extent of two gallons daily, has speedily restored the patients to health. In the cure of fluor albus, chronic gleet and dropsy of the extremities, the saturated tincture of cubebs maintains its high character. In cases of chronic indigestion, attended with symptoms of dropsy and general debility, a mixture of the saturated tincture of cubebs and tincture of rhatany root (in the dose of two tea-spoonful three times a day, in a wine glass of the decoction of marshmallow root) has effected wonders, by invigorating the stomach, and increasing the secretion of urine.

In several cases of chronic rheumatism, friction, every night and morning, by means of the galvanic brush, (mentioned in a former number) has succeeded in a short time after the warm bath, stimulating liniments, and internal stimulating sudorifics had totally failed. In incipient consumptive cough, we have found the Lettuce Lomage, recommended by Dr. Duncan of Edinburgh, very beneficial. As a remedy for tooth-ache, we frequently receive the most favourable reports of the immediate effects of Mr. Perry's Essence, an account of which we have given in our first number. In cases of relaxation of the abdominal muscles, of weakness of the stomach, and sciatica, both in males and females, the abdominal bandage invented by Mr. Baker has afforded the most essential and permanent benefit—it not only supports the abdominal viscera, but the back bone; and many invalids who were not able to walk across their chambers, have, since they adopted it, walked many miles with the most perfect ease, and have found their general health proportionably improved. Many gentlemen who take great exercise in the pursuit of game, assure us, that, by the use of this bandage, they have been enabled to follow their favourite pursuit a much longer time; and on their return home have not experienced the smallest fatigue.

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VOL. IV.

OF SIR GILBERT BLANE, BART.

Physician to the Prince Regent, President of the Medical and Chirurgical Society of London, Fellow of the Royal Society of London and Edinburgh, a Proprietor of the Royal Institution, Member of the Imperial Academy of Sciences of St. Petersburg, Author of a Treatise on the Diseases of Seamen, &c., Elements of Medical Logic, &c. &c., a Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, &c. &c.

THIS deservedly celebrated physician is a younger son of Gilbert Blane, Esq., of Blanesfield, in Ayrshire. At the age of fourteen, his father sent him to Edinburgh with the view of educating him for the church, but, after pursuing his academical studies for five years, he directed his attention to medicine, and the remainder of his residence (five years) he devoted to the different branches of that science. A few years before he quitted this university, he ranked so high in the estimation of the professors and his fellow-students, for his medical acquirements and acuteness of comprehension, that he was elected one of the presidents of the Medical Society, an honour very rarely conferred on one so young. This celebrated establishment comprises all the rising talents of the university, at a seminary where there are seldom less than four hundred students devoted to medicine alone; to obtain so honourable a preferment, the individual must not only possess very superior merit, but in conduct be particularly correct. His period of office was marked by a circumstance which redounds greatly to his credit, viz. that of being selected to deliver an oration, on laying the foundation stone of a new hall for the society, in the year 1775, at which was convened all the circle of the university, as well as the leading characters of that metropolis, which rendered it an arduous task.

Having gone through the necessary discipline, and obtained the degree of M. D. at this celebrated school of medicine, he repaired to London, where he attended to the practice of the different hospitals for the period of two years, on the expiration of which he entered into the naval service. In 1779 he embarked with Sir George Rodney (afterwards Lord Rodney) on an expedition to the West Indies, as Sir George's friend and physician, and as a volunteer in the public service. This enterprise laid the foundation of his fortune and his character as an able physician, for so highly was his conduct esteemed by the gallant admiral, that after his first victory, where Sir Gilbert's medical services were highly conspicuous, he was appointed by him physician to the fleet, a situation of the highest trust and responsibility, which he continued to hold

with] equal credit and advantage to the service, to the conclusion of the war in 1783. With that renowned commander, who, in that memorable war, carried the naval glory of the country to the highest pitch, he was present at no less than six general engagements. During this long and arduous duty, Sir Gilbert kept a regular account of the diseases and their treatment, as well as the mortality in the fleet and the hospitals, which he afterwards published. This work is distinguished by just observations, accurate discrimination, judicious treatment of diseases, and the tried experience which pervades it. By this publication he has contributed more than any other writer to the improvement of naval medicine; indeed, it has been justly said, and is universally allowed by naval practitioners, that through the exertions of this author, naval medicine is rendered easy and simple. By the wise and judicious regulation he adopted in the service for the prevention of disease, the British fleets have of late years been unusually free from the maladies to which sailors are liable. Febrile contagion, the ravages of which were formerly so horrid, are now quickly checked; and scurvy, the pest of our fleets and armies, and which has often arrested the arm of conquest in its proudest career, is now almost unknown in the longest voyages; even under a vertical sun, the seamen in the royal service seeking a security from disease, superior to any other situation. On the conclusion of the war, such was the strong impression of his services on the minds of the flag officers and the captains of the West India fleet, the witnesses and companions of his toils and exertions, that he was unanimously recommended by them to the Board of Admiralty, with the request that his services might be remunerated by His Majesty in an adequate manner, through their official applications, which was accordingly complied with, by the grant of a pension, no half-pay being then established.

His official career being ended, Sir Gilbert settled as a physician in London, and was soon honoured with the appointment of Physician to St. Thomas's Hospital, through the warm recommendation of his patron, Lord Rodney, and his intimate friends Sir Henry Halford and the late Dr. Saunders. The duties of this important office he discharged with great credit to himself, and benefit to the patients. In 1785, during the time he held the appointment, he published the work to which we have alluded, on the various campaigns in which he had been so actively engaged, the result of his discoveries, experience and practice in the service. He was soon afterwards, on the application of the Duke of Clarence, appointed Physician Extraordinary to the Prince Regent; and the following year, he had the further preferment of Physician to the Household. He was even selected, as a mark of His Royal Highness's confidence, to proceed to Spa, for the purpose of attending the Duke of Cumberland, then dangerously ill at that watering place. So highly to the satisfaction of the Prince was this mission executed, that he had next, as a mark of his royal favour, the higher appointment of Physician to his person; and accordingly, in several severe illnesses, he has had the honour of being one of the physicians in attendance upon him.

Nor was his experience in naval affairs, and the excellent regulations he had recommended in that service, now forgotten; for, on the appointment of Lord Spencer, as First Lord of the Admiralty, he was called to be one of the Commissioners of the Sick and Hurt; and to him principally was owing the new modelling of this branch of the public service. The duties of this important station he continued to execute, with equal advantage to the state, as credit to himself, till the peace of Amiens, a reduction of all the naval establishments having then taken place. Soon after this his pension was doubled on a representation of the Board of Admiralty to the King in Council.

In conjunction with the King's physicians, and other leading characters, he drew up the regulations on the subject of quarantine, which formed the basis of the Act of Parliament on this head. His advice was likewise resorted to on the proper mode of accommodating the convicts in the hulks at Woolwich, to prevent the progress of infection, in the year 1800. For the same purpose he officially visited Newgate, by the authority of the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The army from Egypt was transported to Britain, in the manner pointed out by him, at the desire of the Secretary for War and Colonies, to avoid the danger of importing the plague into this country. The Board of Controul applied for his suggestions, in ameliorating the regulations of the medical service in India; and the transports carrying the convicts to Botany Bay were, under his direction, fitted up so as to lessen the mortality of former voyages, by a free ventilation and cleanliness, which he was called upon to do by a warrant from the Secretary for the Home Department; and the success of his plan was so complete, that no contagious disease broke out during the whole voyage.

The Committees of the House of Commons have also occasionally requested his opinion on various important subjects. During the scarcity of 1799 and 1800, his advice was requested, as may be seen on the Bread Report of that period; and at the same time he published a small tract, to correct the popular prejudices then entertained, and with such danger to the country, on the subject of forestalling and combination. His taste for general knowledge, as here exemplified, was probably imbibed at the Speculative Society of Edinburgh, of which he was a member. This Institution was then in its infancy, and still exists. It has been chiefly composed of gentlemen bred to the bar, and may be considered as the hot-bed of those talents, which have been so conspicuous for some years in the Scottish metropolis.

It is believed, that on his first outset in life he owed much to the kindness and favour of the late Dr. W. Hunter, and that he has at all times been deeply indebted to the warm friendship of the late Sir W. Farquhar. He could certainly boast some of the most powerful connexions in political life; and he afterwards fell into habits of private intimacy, as well as professional confidence, with the late Mr. Windham, the late Lord Liverpool, and other characters eminent for their rank and talents. This is the more

remarkable, that one originally bred in the rough school of naval service, should have been able to adapt himself so readily to the manners and habits of the great. But possessed of sound judgment, a sedateness, and rather reserved demeanour, Sir Gilbert displays that manner, which bespeaks one fitted for confidence, and where the secrets of the individual may at all times be deposited with safety, whether of an important or trivial nature. He is not one of those who have recommended themselves by exterior address: but a prudent taciturnity is a great recommendation, in the higher circles, of a physician; and will ever prove an introduction with those who know the world, and have acted much in it. Such men are less apt to have those *mollia tempora*, which lead to openness and disclosure; and they form a species of character well adapted for professional life. Sir Gilbert's practice is accordingly one of the first in the metropolis in point of value and high standing; and if he cannot boast the extent of a Farquhar, he can claim equal respect and estimation.

But the high opinion entertained of Sir Gilbert's professional knowledge, and the public confidence reposed in him by government, was most strongly instanced in the unfortunate Walcheren business, when they were at a stand how to act, and what measures to adopt. Before coming to any final resolution, and without regard to the reports of the army medical officers, Sir G. was despatched to give such an opinion, as should determine the ministry on their future conduct. This was a nice and delicate mission. It was new, that a naval physician should either interfere with, or supersede the first army medical authorities.

The report he made, with the concurrence of the army physicians, determined the intentions of government. The expedition was immediately abandoned, too late to repair past evils, but at a moment when the farther perseverance in it might have entailed greater. Sir G. had thus the satisfaction of being instrumental in saving the lives of thousands; and his Report, which he has published, was rewarded with a liberal remuneration by government, and the thanks of the Commander in Chief, officially given through the War-office. The sense of this and other services seems to have made an impression on the mind of the Prince Regent, who was pleased to promote him to the dignity of a baronet.

Such has been the progress of Sir Gilbert as an official character: we have still to trace him in another view, as devoted to professional literature. Besides the important publication noticed, which may be considered as his great work, he is the author of an ingenious Lecture on Muscular Motion, read before the Royal Society in 1788. In this he has gone a step farther than preceding writers; and some of his positions have been challenged by Professor Monro, of Edinburgh—a proof of the estimation attached to it by that celebrated character. The article Muscle also, in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, is from his pen, and claims equal merit. Several valuable papers he has also communicated to the public, through the channel of the Transactions of a Society for the

Improvement of Medical and Surgical Knowledge; and in the collection of papers relating to infection, by Dr. Clarke, of Newcastle.

The fourth volume of the Medical and Chirurgical Transactions, contains a long communication from him, on the prevailing Diseases of the Metropolis for the last twenty years, a paper of much interest and professional utility, shewing the same attentive observation, as his official works. The scarcity in the years 1799 and 1800, in consequence of being consulted on the subject by the Committee of the House of Commons, engaged his attention, in common with a number of other public characters; and in his treatise, at that period, he has pointed out the best means of meeting the pressure of the evil, and of tranquillizing the lower orders.

He has lately favoured the literary world with a Treatise on Medical Logic, which displays great depth of reasoning and originality. The chapters, on the energies peculiar to animal life, on the diversity of constitutions, on the difficulty of appreciating the efforts of nature, and of discriminating them from art, on superstition, and on the fallacy of testimony, are highly interesting. The valuable parts of this work we shall concentrate for an early number.

As a proof how highly the professional abilities of Sir Gilbert are held by his late teacher, Professor Duncan, of Edinburgh, may be noticed the compliment that distinguished physician has paid him, by dedicating to him his late Treatise on Pulmonary Consumption.

The testimonies of public approbation, which this respectable individual has received, have not been confined to his own country. The subjects of public police and national interest, on which he has been consulted from abroad, have gained him the honourable notice of the sovereigns of Russia, Prussia, and even the President of the United States of America. The two former presented him with gold medals, expressive of their high sense of his professional merit; and the last wrote him a letter of thanks with his own hand. To his own sovereign he has been personally known for more than one half his reign, and received from him every attention; and he has for a length of time enjoyed the esteem and particular confidence of the Prince Regent.

The prescriptions of Sir Gilbert are neat and chemical, and plainly shew his object to be the speedy recovery of his patients, and not merely to amuse their minds for the purpose of enriching himself.

GALVANISM.—*Dr. De Sanctis*, (an Editor of an interesting periodical work, published in London every fortnight, under the title of *L'Ape Italiana a Londra*,) to whom we are indebted for many valuable remarks on cutaneous diseases, and the effects of sulphurous fumigation, has favoured us with the following translation of a letter he lately addressed to Professor Aldini, of Bologna, on the subject of Galvanism.

“My dear Friend and Colleague,—Since your departure from London, the Royal Humane Society have thought proper to appoint a commission to examine the construction and to consider the most

appropriate use to which your new galvanic piles can be applied; principally in cases of suspended animation. You have probably, by this time, read in the eleventh number of the 'Ape Italiana a Londra,' the names of those who compose it. As mine happens to be amongst them, I feel myself urged by a new stimulus to defend, from no light objections, the instruments, the first models of which, together with their ingenious maker, Mr. Massi, you were pleased to recommend me.—For if the friendship by which we are united, the honour of our country, and the love of mankind, before induced me to become the champion of your labours,—gratitude to the Royal Humane Society for the honour conferred upon me, and the interest which I ought to take in every measure of medical police to which I might be called in a country which has generously afforded me hospitality, at present impose on me an equal obligation.

"The objections made against the step-pile (*pila a scaletta*), originated with Mr. Massi and myself, although we were earnestly desirous of supporting it; the English philosophers did but repeat what was observed on this subject in the above-mentioned Journal. But some of them attacked violently even the neck-lace pile (*pila a corona*); and an individual declared, in a very interesting journal of popular medicine (*The Monthly Gazette of Health*), that this could never be useful, but rather injurious in medical practice. The principal accusations were the following:—in the neck-lace pile, the developement of the galvanic power is in the highest degree rapid and intense, but is dissipated almost entirely before it is possible to make the requisite application of it in a proper manner; the necessity recurs every moment of reinforcing it by *moistening* and *squeezing* the sponge, with no slight inconvenience to the bystanders, with unavoidable interruption of the operation, and with constantly increasing irregularity in the action and its duration. I could not deny, in part, the truth of these remarks; and to weaken in some measure their force, I was satisfied at first with observing, that the skill of the *galvaniser*, and practice in the management of the pile, would diminish and almost remove these inconveniences. But in the course of time, and with observation, it appeared that they depended more than was supposed upon the imperfection of the instrument itself. Conceiving then that some internal cause of dissipation would be found in an instrument capable of surpassing even in permanence of effect the galvanic troughs,—as in fact, on account of its external *isolation*, it did surpass them in rapidity and intensity; it was not difficult to discover it in the silken twist, which, as soon as moistened with the prepared fluid, must become a perpetual and no weak conductor from pole to pole.

"Meanwhile it did not appear difficult to me to remedy this inconvenience; and I proposed to Massi to construct three new piles, one with plates strung with simple silken twist, one with horse-hair twist, and the third with twist of oiled silk. Experience, I said to myself, will point out in which of the three the polar condensations will be best preserved. When the piles were made, operating in the usual way, a great difference in duration was found between the former piles and the new ones; not so great, however, between the

latter compared with each other, yet always to the advantage, *cæteris paribus*, of the twist of oiled silk. I will describe to you, on another occasion, the process which Massi employed to make in the best way the twists, and the oil which was found preferable; at present it is better to proceed to another improvement in the construction, which has been not less useful than the first. If the rapidity of metallic oxydation does not consume too quickly the prepared fluid fitting the capillary spaces, certainly the fuming, which always accompanies the process, does not fail to expel the remainder in the form of froth. It is true, that by squeezing a sponge on the top of the column, the attracting spaces were easily replenished; but, I could not help asking, What is the advantage of those spaces? It is true that they absorb more quickly the prepared fluid, that they put it in immediate contact with the plates; but is it worth while to lose certainly in permanency, and perhaps in regularity of successive development, in order to gain a few moments in rapidity at the commencement? And of what advantage will the application, a little anticipated, ever be, if it is afterwards to be every now and then suspended? And who knows whether successive and frequent interruption would not negative all the effect of galvanism, especially in the most interesting cases of suspended animation, in which perhaps the good effect of every other remedy hitherto employed is owing not a little to the uninterrupted application? In opposition to this reasoning, the idea occurred to me that perhaps the water acidulated, in the usual proportion of the acid, might not be able to produce an effect of equal intensity when the spaces were excluded. Well, I replied to myself, if the capillary tubes of the cloth do not attract the prepared fluid so rapidly, or at least do not freely put it in immediate contact with the metals, let us endeavour to obtain a compensation in the greater proportion of the acid. The proportion was increased by degrees, and it was found that when raised to $\frac{1}{3}$, not only was the former rapidity obtained, but shortly afterwards even greater intensity of power and uniform permanence of effect for half an hour, and this by the mere immersion of the pile, without disuniting the plates, without the necessity of wiping off the constant froth with a linen cloth, without inconvenient fuming, without occasion for refreshment, and after only ten or twelve seconds of immersion. Comparing in this new construction the pile with twist of simple silk with those with twist of oiled silk and hair, it was found that the first never arrived at the *maximum* of the intensity of power of the other two; and that in a quarter of an hour at most it was already exceedingly weakened." (To be continued.)

Dr. Nicholson, some years ago, gave galvanism a very extensive trial in cases of deafness arising from nervous debility; and it appears by his reports, that in every case he found it more or less beneficial. The following communication confirms Dr. Nicholson's statement of the efficacy of this remedy in that species of deafness termed *nervous*.

"SIR,—The opinion of Mr. Abernethy, on the practice of making the diseases of the organs of sense distinct branches of the medical profession, was noticed in your valuable pages

some time ago. In the case of the ear, for instance, the knowledge of its anatomy and physiology is certainly a qualification, but not the only one required for the judicious treatment of the diseases of that organ. The sciences of pathology and medicine are also unquestionably necessary, otherwise those disorders to which the ear is subject will be treated merely as local maladies, arising from accidental causes, without any regard to the general state of health. That this has frequently been the case, I may safely assert on the testimony of numerous respectable individuals, who have from time to time consulted me in cases of deafness, and who have made heavy complaints of the enormous expences they have incurred by a mode of treatment which had eventually proved wholly inefficient. That there are some disorders peculiar to the organs of hearing which require *surgical aid*, is an undeniable truth, but from an experience of more than eighteen years, I can confidently affirm that these sort of cases will be found *comparatively few*. The more frequent causes of deafness fall *more immediately* under the province of the *physician and surgeon-apothecary* than the *surgeon-aurist, or operative electrician*. Among the numerous applications from persons labouring under deafness, I have found very few instances which require topical remedies, the diminished sensorial power having originated either in *dyspeptic, hepatic, or nervous disorders*, and were therefore, in slight cases, remedial under the *ordinary treatment* of the *general practitioner*. But in long-continued visceral derangement and extreme general debility, with a correspondent defective energy of the auditory nerves, and an obstructed eustachian tube, I have successfully employed the extraordinary agency of electricity and galvanism. In the most common cause of deafness, that arising from *redundant or indurated cerumen*, the simple prescription of the celebrated Dr. Marriot, is, in my humble opinion, preferable to any other solvent. 'A tea-spoonful,' says the doctor, 'of warm water poured into the ears, and suffered to continue for a minute or two in them every night, will often produce extraordinary effects. This is a more expeditious solvent of the ear-wax than upwards of *seventy other menstrums that were tried*. Let a pinch of the following snuff be taken immediately after:— Take of white hellebore root, a scruple, and euphorbium, two grains—a sternutatory powder.' The doctor adds, 'that if warm water will not remove deafness (this species of it), after using it some weeks, nothing that is *put into the ears* will do it.' But in deafness originating in a disordered state of the digestive organs, or of the nervous system, the use of the syringe, or the employment of topical remedies, have far more frequently been productive of *harm* than *good*. In such cases the ailment arising from a constitutional cause, no more belongs to the department of a *surgeon-aurist, or operative electrician*, than gout to that of a chiropedist. The truth of these observations, gleaned as it has been from long experience, will be pretty clearly illustrated by the following cases.

"Case 1. D. L. C. Esq. Bond-street, the 27th day of March last, consulted me on his case. He was nearly quite deaf of the left ear, and partially so of the right. He was about 35 years of age, of a

robust form, and of a phlegmatic temperament. He had laboured under this infirmity for four years. He was at first, he said, troubled with giddiness in the head, a singing noise in the ears, with occasional dimness of sight. The ceruminous secretion became deficient, and the sensorial power diminished rapidly. He had consulted several aurists, at different times, who had invariably prescribed *local applications* to the ear, which, instead of affording him *any relief*, rather *increased* his deafness. Upon making minute enquiries as to the various symptoms of his complaint, I was fully convinced that his disorder originated in indigestion, and stated that to him as my opinion. He was at first surprised at this intimation, but afterwards admitted that he had, during the whole period of his malady, experienced much distress of stomach, from acidity, flatulence and nausea, and that his bowels had been frequently irregular. This gentleman was galvanised for the first time on the 27th of March last, *on the stomach*, and the immediate effects astonished him. On the following day he was enabled to hear his watch tick on the left side, at the distance of his arm's-length, though before he could not hear the tick when the watch came even *in contact* with the ear. By the regular use of galvanism for a few weeks, he not only recovered his hearing, but also his general health—a blessing which he now values more highly than the possession of sensorial power.

“Case 2. G. M. Esq. Portland Place, forty years of age, of a sanguine temperament, of a robust form, and of a plethoric habit, was recommended to me on the 13th of July, 1818, by a surgeon of the first eminence. He had been deaf for more than twenty years. The account he gave me of the origin and the then symptoms of his complaint, led me to conclude that his deafness was occasioned by *hepatic disease*. On particular examination, I found no ceruminous secretion in either the right or the left ear: the tympanum of neither could be inflated. He could not hear the tick of a watch in the mouth, or when placed on his teeth. This gentleman had lately returned from India, after more than twenty years' residence in that country. During that period he had been frequently attacked with inflammation of the liver, and other disorders peculiar to warm climates; and since his arrival home, he had been constantly obliged to have recourse to mercurial and other powerful remedies, to excite the bowels, the biliary secretion being inadequate to stimulate the intestines to proper evacuations. In addition to this affliction, which was a fruitful source of many distressing feelings in the head, stomach, and other parts of the body, he was obliged to place himself under the care of the medical gentleman who recommended him to me, for a stricture of the urethra and gleet, which he had been given to understand were the symptoms attendant on his liver complaint. Before I applied the galvanism, I requested the patient to try how far he could hear my watch from each ear. He was sensible of the ticking of it, when about three inches from the right ear, but required the pressure of the watch on the left ear to convey the sound to the sensorium. I then requested him not to put it to his ears for a fortnight, that he might be the better able to judge if his power of hearing increased. In three weeks after the

employment of galvanism as a constitutional remedy, the secretion of bile was increased, and the bowels were fully restored to their proper action without the aid of any medicine. At the expiration of a fortnight, I requested him to try how far he could hear my watch on the right ear. He said he was sensible of the improvement in his hearing—that all his friends had remarked the change, and that he could now distinctly hear my watch tick as it lay on the table. He however put it to the right ear with the right hand, and then rapidly withdrew it to the fullest extent of his arm. On trying the watch to the left ear, I found the amendment comparatively trifling; he could not withdraw it more than three inches—a circumstance, however, that afforded hopes of further improvement. In short, when the patient was perfectly cured of his liver complaint, he fully recovered the hearing of the right ear, but the left was not restored to equal capability.

“ This gentleman called on me a few months ago with a friend of his, to consult me on a case similar to his own, and he then informed me that he had, ever since he left me (the 31st of August, 1818), enjoyed perfect health, and fully retained his powers of hearing.

“ Case 3.—A.—Esq. Gray’s Inn, being an eminent solicitor, of very extensive business, had, by his great application to professional duties, brought upon himself a nervous complaint. This gentleman came to me in the summer of 1817; he was of a spare habit, of an active mind, and about 40 years of age. He had experienced a gradual loss of hearing for about two years. In its first approaches it was attended with a buzzing noise in the ears, and defective secretion of cerumen. He could inflate the tympanum, and hear the ticking of a watch at the distance of about three inches from both ears, which were equally affected. There was no induration of cerumen. The auditory nerves had lost their tone, and the nervous system, having suffered from *too great excitement*, had sunk into a state of *exhaustion*. In this case I recommended the patient nervines, and employed electricity as a constitutional remedy. He, however, abstained from taking the medicines I had ordered, and notwithstanding the omission, by *electricity alone*, he perfectly recovered both his health and hearing in three weeks,—a circumstance that left no doubt on my mind that his disorder was *purely nervous*. In this, as well as the preceding and succeeding cases, the ordinary *local remedies* had been employed, without *any advantage* whatever.

“ Case 4. Amongst the numerous cases of obstructed eustachian tube which I have known, a very singular instance of successful treatment occurred about three years ago, while I superintended a public Institution. Mr. Joseph Ridges, seventy-six years of age; of a very spare habit, much emaciated, labouring under the infirmities of old age, bent down, bald headed, and toothless; but nevertheless in the possession of tolerable health. He stated to me that he had become deaf in consequence of having been buried in snow, for several hours, about forty years back, and that by the left ear he never afterwards heard any sound whatever. He began to lose the hearing of the right ear about twenty-three years ago, but in his then state he could not hear the ticking of a watch, either in

his mouth or when placed close to his ears. With the greatest efforts he could not *at all inflate* the tympanum of either ear. Upon the whole, I conceived this case to be a hopeless one; but he having known several instances of recovery of deaf patients who had been under my care, he determined to make a trial, though I assured him there was not the least prospect of his obtaining any benefit. He attended regularly for eleven times, during which, I employed electricity as a mechanical stimulus along the course of the eustachian tube. On the succeeding day he called again; and my servant in his usual way vociferated in his ear, "How do you find yourself?" he smiled and said, "you need not hollow so loud, for I can now hear as well as you can." I confess I was astonished at this declaration, and on making enquiry, he gave me a circumstantial detail of particulars attending the *sudden and perfect recovery* of hearing of that ear, which had been *totally deaf for forty years*. From this extraordinary success, I was encouraged to proceed with the other ear, and I had the satisfaction of restoring that also, in a *sudden manner*, in a fortnight after. This singular recovery made no inconsiderable noise among the patient's connections, and as he was anxious it should be given to the public, I have already published this surprising case, with his name and abode. In making, however, this communication to the deaf, I by no means hold out that my remedies will prove *equally efficacious* in all cases, but only give this as a *decisive proof*, that an *obstruction of the eustachian tube, from accidental causes, may exist for a series of years without its being wholly obliterated*, and that the mechanical impulse of electricity may produce a beneficial result, if no morbid changes from inflammation have closed that tube, which is essential to the perception of sound. In cases where a partial obstruction of the eustachian tube had arisen from a deranged state of the system, and a morbid affection of the ear, the influence of galvanism, as a constitutional and local remedy, has in numerous instances, in my own practice, perfectly restored the patient to the blessings of both health and hearing.

"31, Southampton Row, Russell Square,

"September 14th, 1819.

"I am, Sirs,

"Your most obedient Servant,

"M. LA BEAUME."

PLAGUE.—The select Committee of the House of Commons, appointed to consider the validity of the doctrines of contagion in the plague, have made the following report:—

"Your Committee being appointed to consider the validity of the received doctrines concerning the nature of contagious and infectious diseases, as distinguished from other epidemics, have proceeded to examine a number of medical gentlemen, whose practical experience or general knowledge of the subject appeared to your Committee most likely to furnish the means of acquiring the most satisfactory information. They have also had the evidence of a number of persons whose residence in infected countries, or whose commercial or official employments enabled them to communicate information as to facts, and on the principle and efficacy of the laws of quarantine; all the opinions of the medical men whom your Committee have examined, with the exception of two, are in favour of

the received doctrine, that the plague is a disease communicable by *contact only*, and different in that respect from epidemic fever; nor do your Committee see any thing in the rest of the evidence they have collected, which would induce them to dissent from that opinion. It appears, from some of the evidence, that the extension and virulence of the disorder is considerably modified by atmospheric influence; and a doubt has prevailed, whether, under *any* circumstance, the disease could be received and propagated in the climate of Britain. No fact whatever has been stated to show, that any instance of the disorder has occurred, or that it has ever been known to have been brought into the lazarettos for many years: but your Committee do not think themselves warranted to infer from thence, that the disease cannot exist in England; because, in the first place, a disease resembling in most respects the plague, is well known to have prevailed here in many periods of our history, particularly in 1665-6; and, further, it appears that in many places, and in climates of various nature, the plague has prevailed after intervals of very considerable duration.

"Your Committee would also observe, down to the year 1800, regulations were adopted, which must have had the effect of preventing goods infected with the plague from being shipped directly for Britain; and they abstain from giving any opinion on the nature and application of the quarantine regulations, as not falling within the scope of inquiry to which they have been directed; but they see no reason to question the validity of the principles on which such regulations appear to have been adopted. June 14, 1819."

The idea that plague is communicated by contact only, pretty generally prevails in those eastern countries where the disease is most common; but Dr. Robertson, an able physician of Margate, who has had many opportunities of witnessing the progress, &c. of the disease, in a recent publication asserts, that he never met with a well-authenticated instance of its being so communicated; and he is satisfied that the contagion is conveyed to the system through the medium of the lungs. We have, says this experienced physician, many instances given us by Mr. Jackson, in his History of Morocco, of his having sat at table with people infected with plague, and even of having visited the chambers of the dying of the malady, with impunity, in consequence of having kept windward of the patients. Dr. Robertson has known many instances of medical gentlemen under the same precaution, having approached the bedside of the afflicted with this disease, and of having felt their pulse, without taking the infection. That contagion is conveyed to the mass of blood through the medium of the lungs, we demonstrated by a variety of experiments, the result of which we published many years ago. From this ascertained fact, one inference of utility may be deduced, viz. for those attendant on the infected to adopt mufflers, as suggested by Mr. Boyle and Dr. Hales. Dr. Robertson suggests a contrivance of this sort adapted to cover the mouth and nostrils, allowing sufficient room for breathing and for speaking, by placing a piece of sponge, of about an inch thick, between two pieces of fine linen, and sewed upon a piece of silver wire, having holes drilled throughout it, and made so as to fit closely,

going over the nose and coming below the chin, with a transverse projection of wire from the part that goes over the nose to that under the chin; to keep the sponge sufficiently raised, it may be fastened by tying it over the ears, or fixed with springs in the manner of spectacles, and when used, be kept moist with water, vinegar and water, or any other inoffensive liquid.

In the treatment of the plague, Dr. Veitch is of opinion, that the promotion of perspiration is of great importance; and for this purpose he strongly recommends the vapour bath as "incomparably superior to the process recommended by Mr. Baldwin."

SALIVATION.—Mr. MacClure, an eminent surgeon, of Old Kirkpatrick, recommends a method of exciting salivation expeditiously, which has long been employed by some surgeons of celebrity as a *local* application in scrofulous and other chronic affections of the joints, but which we believe was never employed with the view of introducing mercury into the system. The method is as follows: "Scarify a portion of the skin, and sprinkle corrosive sublimate of mercury (finely powdered) on the wounded surface."—This preparation of mercury, being soluble in the fluids of the body, Mr. MacClure supposes that absorption immediately takes place, and a certain effect is rapidly produced on the constitution. The extraordinary rapidity with which the system may in this way be changed with mercury, was well exemplified some time ago in the following case, the account of which is extracted from the records of the Royal Infirmary of Glasgow.

"On the 29th day of May 1816, James Wilson came into the house. His left-knee joint was much swelled, stiff, and painful. These were the sequelæ of an injury which he had sustained a considerable time before, and for which leeches, blisters, and an issue had in vain been employed. The issue was open when he arrived at the hospital; it was then ordered to be healed up. This was accomplished by the 10th of June; and the following extract from the books of the house will show what were the subsequent treatment and its results:—

"June 10th.—Let there be inserted, immediately, to the fibular side of the patella, an issue formed by the muriate of mercury.

"13th.—He experienced very considerable pain from the insertion of the issue. The inflammation has extended from its margin over nearly the whole fore part of the joint. Poultices have been employed. *The day following the use of the muriate of mercury, salivation to a slight degree took place.*

"21st.—The eschar has separated. Since the active inflammation which it produced has abated, the swelling of the knee has decreased most wonderfully, it measuring now only an inch more in circumference than the healthy knee."

The following remarkable instance of the effects of oxygene in promoting the effects of mercury on the salivary glands, or rather in rendering mercury active, lately occurred in London. A gentleman, to whom mercury had been externally and internally administered to an unusual extent without producing any effect on the mouth, after having discontinued its use for some days, inhaled oxygene gas, under the direction of Mr. Payne, twice a day, with

the view of improving his general health. Two days after the use of this remedy, symptoms of salivation came on, and during its use advanced rapidly.

MEDICAL EXCURSION on the CONTINENT.—(*Continued from p. 59.*)—After visiting the Museum of Morbid Anatomy, &c. I was introduced into the apartment where the antient and modern surgical instruments are deposited. On these instruments, and the mode of employing them, lectures are regularly delivered to the pupils gratuitously. The advantage of such lectures the pupils acknowledge to be incalculable: an English student declared that he had derived more *practical* information from them than from the lectures on operative surgery delivered in the Borough, although the operator gave every possible effect to his performances, by the exhibition of diamond rings and consequential flourishes of the knife, &c. The collection consisted of instruments of all nations. Of the improvements made in England, the attendant spoke in terms of approbation; but of the inventions of M. Assilini, which were pronounced to be great improvements by some English surgeons, he thought nothing. "In England," said he, with an air of surprise, "Assalini was considered an ingenious surgeon; but in France he is nobody." I hope that the lecturers on surgery in this country will see the necessity of following the example of the French surgeons, in making their pupils acquainted with the different surgical instruments, and the mode of using them.

Being informed that the article sold in the country under the name of *Essential Salt of Bark*, was first made under the direction of a Count de Garraye, by a Mons. Gammon, a chemist in Paris, I called the following morning on that gentleman to obtain some information of his mode of making it. He told me that he was the person who made it for the English market, and that he dealt largely in the article. On expressing a wish to see it, he immediately commenced a search for it; and after detaining me about ten minutes, he found a phial containing about two drachms of the preparation, or rather something like it, which he acknowledged was all he *then* had!—The bottle was covered with dust, and from the appearance of the cork had not been opened for many years. He told me he had supplied a Mr. Godfrey, a druggist in London, with it, at the rate of 4s. 6d. an ounce. I observed, that in England, where the Peruvian Bark was as cheap as it was at that time in France, it could not be made for less than double that sum. "Psha!" said he, with a shrug, "it answered my purpose very well, and no doubt Mons. Godfrey's—Mons. Godfrey was a plodding *druggist*; and as to chemistry, he knew as much of it as my cat. *We* made it pay well, and this is all you English look to." He very politely allowed me to examine his chemical preparations, which were very good. Like the Calais apothecary, he made his wife very useful in the shop. All the money taken in it by the assistants was given to her; and each sum, however small, she entered in a book. This I afterwards found to be a common practice throughout France. Of the composition of the Eau Medicinale he was ignorant.

I afterwards visited the hospital belonging to the School of Medicine. It was built to contain sixty patients, but was seldom full.

There was no case of any interest in it. On leaving the hospital I was much amused with several long lists of books to be sold by the pupils at a cheap rate, pasted on the walls and doors leading to the hospital, with a reference to the owners. I was told that as soon as a pupil had read a book, he generally disposed of it, and being generally poor, they hurried through them in order that they might convert them into money. To keep books by them merely for the sake of exhibition they considered a certain proof of a weak mind. "They keep," said my attendant, "their learning in their heads, and not in their libraries. It be bad, very bad, to trust to books." "Poor Birkbeck!" muttered I to myself, "hadst thou attended more to the furnishing of thy upper story than to thy library, what a labour wouldst thou have escaped in thy writings." "Ah!" replied my companion, "of all the nations of the earth the English alone know what *mental* labour is. Those engaged in trade particularly must have their wits about them. Their minds are necessarily in a state of activity, planning the means of meeting their expences, and particularly their enormous taxation. Hence the cause of the frequency of insanity, suicide, and public executions, in your country!! It is well for the English that they possess strong minds. As for the French, they have no reason to look forward; with them to-morrow provides for itself, and let it bring what it may, they are equally cheerful,—nothing disturbs their minds, except politics, which is become a kind of mania."

The following day I was introduced to a meeting of the Royal Institutes of France, at which were present the first philosophers of Europe. I was proud on seeing an English baronet taking his seat among the leading members. After they had taken their situations, a list of the presents made to the institution since their last meeting (only a week), amounting to about a hundred books from different parts of the world, was read by the secretary, on the conclusion of which the thanks of the meeting were, as a matter of course, voted to the donors. Two of the works were from the author, Dr. Young, of London. The following week I was not a little amused by a paragraph in some of the London papers, stating that the Royal Institutes of France had unanimously voted their thanks to Dr. Young, of London, for his valuable work on Medical Literature, &c. Now had Dr. Solomon sent a copy of his Guide to Health, the same compliment would have been paid to him. A long dissertation was read by an English physician, of the name of Edwards, on several cruel experiments he had made on different animals, with the view to ascertain how long they might be kept under water, or suspended by the neck, without completely extinguishing the vital spark!! It produced much yawning, and other symptoms of restlessness. It was most tediously long, and his pronunciation of the French language seemingly not harmonious to the ears of the French members.

On leaving this place, my attendant acquainted me with the conversation which passed between the celebrated *Orfila* and a Monsieur Bozi, in the open street of Paris, to which he was present. Monsieur Bozi, on meeting *Orfila*, observed, "that being now physician of a country which ranks high in Europe for the encouragement of science, viz. England, and being connected with one of the leading medical works published in that country, he did expect

that he would have done him the honour, as a *friend*, to present him with a copy of his late work on Poisons:—Orfila replied, “Why really, M. Bozi, I did not know that the work would afford you any information, or interest you in any degree as secretary to Mr. Hamilton; but as a *friend*, I think it was your duty to purchase a copy; for if friends expect such compliments from authors, I really think authors had better be without friends:—but, Monsieur Bozi,” continued Orfila, “we will not dispute this point; I beg you will do me the favour to accept this,” offering him (as my attendant supposed) a Louisd’or to purchase a copy. Secretary Bozi, not a little confused, declined to take it, by telling him that he must be aware that he could not have remained so long in Paris, after the publication of so valuable a work, without purchasing a copy; and he flattered himself that he possessed the first copy that was sold. Orfila, by this compliment, was not a little pleased. “Well, Monsieur Bozi,” said he, “so you have really taken up the study of medicine and become a physician.”—“Yes,” replied Monsieur Bozi, “I have every prospect of being a leading physician in the British metropolis. You will soon see some of my communications copied into your journals. I have added to my name that of G-v-le;—Bozi will not do in England, for there was a notorious quack there of that name, some years ago.”—“Ah,” said Orfila, “you are right; in England every thing is *name*. Monsieur Hamilton made you a secretary,—it be more difficult to make you a physician; but when you are so, Monsieur Hamilton, no doubt, can make you connection which will lead to fortune. Besides, Monsieur *Doctor* Bozi, you are an Italian, and therefore in England you will easily obtain Royal appointments; the Royal Dukes are partial to the *Italian practice*. The qualification of an English physician consists in a *good share of impudence, much cunning and suavity of manners*. Dont forget to make a book, with scraps of Greek and Latin, and advertise it well, and you will do.”

Orfila, on taking his leave, cordially wished him success in his *new* undertaking. Monsieur Bozi, taking hold of a button of his coat, told him, that he had two good subjects to write upon, viz. the Vomic Nut and the Prussic Acid. “The use of the former I will revive, and the latter is not known to the practitioners of England. The English physicians are very fond of the poisonous drugs.”—“You mean, Monsieur Bozi,” said Orfila, with a smile, “of *prescribing* them;”—“Right,” replied Bozi, “they are too knowing to take them themselves.” “Ah! so it is,” replied Orfila, “so good day, Monsieur Bozi, again success to your *new* speculation.”

The next place we visited was the yard in which Dr. Alibert delivers his lectures on cutaneous diseases.—The doctor was fortunately delivering an oration. He always lectured in a place without a covering, because, said he emphatically, *Science should be perfectly free*.—In medicine there should be nothing like concealment. He talked much of the classification and names of cutaneous diseases adopted by Monsieur *Bautman*, an English physician. He warmly contended that they were not drawn from practice, and that they exhibited nothing but ingenuity of a *closet* writer. “When Monsieur *Bautman*,” said he, “called on me in Paris, I took him to my Hospital for cutaneous diseases; and, as I expected, not one of the numerous variety of diseases of the skin which he examined, answered his description: in fact, to no one would any of his names apply!—so much, he exclaimed, for *theoretic* writers.” Of the abilities of Alibert, as a *practical* physician, my guest spoke highly.

(To be continued.)

LOCK JAW.—The following case of this formidable disease is from the pen of Dr. Jos. Painchaud:

"On the 15th of December last, Mary St. Gelais, a servant of Mr. Saul, fell on the ice, and lacerated the integuments of her right knee; but the wound not appearing dangerous, she continued her usual occupations. Eighteen days after, although the wound appeared nearly healed, she began to complain of a stiffness in the back of her neck, and of a certain difficulty of moving her jaw, accompanied by an acute pain in her knee, which the healing of the wound had not relieved. The pain having increased in an alarming manner during the day, the patient was carried in the evening to Dr. Blanchet, who prescribed something for the night. Dr. A. Island being called in at Mr. Saul's desire, declared that lock jaw was then complete. During three days, he employed every thing the art prescribes in such cases; but perceiving all his efforts were useless, he requested his friend Dr. P. de Salles Laterriere to form a consultation. They were both of opinion that there was nothing else to be done but amputation; to which, nevertheless, the patient and her relations positively refused their consent. They then contented themselves with enlarging the wound, and dressing it with the common stimulants; leaving the patient with such full conviction of her approaching death, that they thought it their duty to give her warning of her extreme danger, and her relations of the certainty of her death. The disconsolate husband came to me soon after, in tears, and requested me to go and see his wife, telling me she was at the last extremity; without however mentioning one word of what had passed before. But on the road I met Dr. P. de Salles Laterriere, who informed me nearly of what I have just related, adding that the case was quite desperate: yet the success I had already met with from copious bleedings in similar cases, induced me again to try the same measures.

"I found the poor woman in so violent a paroxysm, that her whole body was bent like a bow, and supported only on the back of the head and on the heels. The jaw was so closed that it was impossible to introduce the blade of a knife. I confess that I also thought her on the point of expiring; yet her pulse, although small and rapid, and much resembling such a one as commonly accompanies inflammation of the brain, holding out tolerably well, I immediately came to the resolution of bleeding her till she fainted. I was obliged to take from her thirty-six ounces of blood. The fainting fit lasted a long time; but the contraction of the jaws and the general spasm yielded visibly to that powerful depletion. I then took advantage of the slackness of the jaw to make her swallow four ounces of castor oil; and I prescribed the same quantity in a elyter. After two hours she had two copious stools: she notwithstanding relapsed, and as violently as before. I repeated the bleeding, which was followed by a fainting, after the fresh loss of eighteen ounces of blood. During three days she took each day an ounce and a half of laudanum; the fourth day her mouth again closed, and the same convulsions began. Another bleeding *ad deliquium* (thirty ounces), and the patient found herself relieved as if

it were by enchantment. Her great repugnance to the tincture of opium made me substitute in its place the extract of pure opium combined with calomel: the doses will appear more than extraordinary, and the success alone can justify them.

"I gave her sixty grains of opium and sixty of calomel each day, during three successive days; and during six other successive days, sixty grains of opium alone each day. The calomel did not cause any salivation; it acted powerfully on the bowels, from which it expelled several worms. The woman is at present perfectly well, and follows her business."

WORMS.—In the Transactions of the College of Physicians of Ireland, an interesting article appears from the pen of Dr. Barry, on the origin of worms in the human intestinal canal. The generation of worms in the stomach and intestines, has been for a long time a fertile source of conjecture, and of difference of opinion, amongst medical writers. Practical writers, indeed, are too much disposed to undervalue inquiries which are not immediately directed to the cure of the disease; alleging, in this instance, that it is the duty of the physician to expel these troublesome animals, when they are present, without being over-solicitous to ascertain their mode of production. Such reasoning is calculated to check every useful inquiry into nature, and to reduce the medical art to a state of blind empiricism. That the species of worms that infest the human body, which chiefly demand the attention of physicians, has been derived from an *external* source, in the doctor's opinion, has not been satisfactorily proved. The doctrine of their equivocal generation, he asserts, is now altogether abandoned by philosophers—a proof that he is little acquainted with this class of the community; for some of the first physiologists of the age allow that the arguments are in favour of equivocal generation, with regard to hydatids and other animals found in the human body. The doctor has been induced to draw this general conclusion, because "Mr. H. and his family became affected with ascarides soon after they went to reside near Macroom, in the county of Cork, where Mr. H. had built a house, near which was a spring of water that supplied the family, for drink &c. Strangers visiting Mr. H. and his family were greatly annoyed by these worms; but they disappeared on their returning to their usual place of residence. Mr. H. was then induced to quit it; and his flight was accelerated by a discovery, made by Mrs. H., of myriads of dark-coloured worms in the water of the spring on which their suspicions had been fixed, which resembled in every respect, except in colour, the ascarides they were accustomed to pass from their bowels. Dr. Barry examined some of those animalculæ;—they varied in length from half an inch and under, to nearly three-quarters of an inch, tapering gradually from the head to the tail, which ended in a point. They were proportionably different in bulk, the largest being as thick as a stout packthread, and the smallest so minute as to be scarcely visible without the help of a magnifier; with others of all the intermediate degrees of size. The colour of the largest worms, and those of a middle size, was dark brown when taken from the well; but upon wiping them gently

with a napkin, the colour changed to a pale yellow, of which colour were numerous small worms, some of which were visible only by the help of a magnifier.

"Upon comparing the worms of the well with those discharged from the bowels, the resemblance was exact in shape and external appearance. The largest worm from the well exceeded in size those passed from the body, but not remarkably; and they differed also in being dark-coloured. The difference of colour may be urged as an objection to the common origin of the ascarides from the well, and those of the intestines; but we have the authority of Hooper for the fact, that ascarides, of a brown colour, are sometimes discharged from the body; and there are numerous instances to shew, that animals as well as vegetables become light-coloured by immersion in darkness."

The identity of the worms of the spring, with those passed from the bowels of Mr. H. and his family, is very probable; but we concur with the "learned naturalist," to whose opinion Dr. Barry alludes in the following passage: "A learned naturalist, who has done me the kindness to peruse these papers, objects that the ascarides of the well may have been of different species from those which occur in ordinary cases; and alleges, that to render the proofs perfect respecting the identity, as to species, of the ascarides of the well, with those discharged by Mr. H. (which he allows to be the same) and the ordinary intestinal ascarides, they should be minutely compared in their anatomical structure." And we are surprised that Dr. Barry did not follow the judicious suggestions of his friend. He might then have avoided the unfortunate dilemma, into which he has fallen, of advancing mere notions as positive truths, and then adducing, with a view to confirm them, observations which appear utterly inadequate to afford them the smallest support.

That we may pass over nothing which Dr. Barry considers as tending to support his opinion, we shall transcribe his concluding observations:—"Mr. H. and his family have never been wholly free from these worms, during the years which have elapsed since he was driven from his former residence; though their numbers have never been so great, nor the suffering of him and his family so intolerable, as when they resided near the prime cause of the mischief."

MIND AND MATTER.—Dr. Nicholl, of Ludlow, in a late work entitled "*A Sketch of the Economy of Man*," observes, "It is plain that as *mind* has no direct communication with the *material* world, has nothing present to it but what we have termed *sensation*; so would it fare as well, provided it were furnished with sensations, whether matter really existed or not." The question respecting the identity or diversity of understanding in man and the brute, the doctor thus resolves; "The following are *peculiar* characteristics of *human* intellect; a reference to things which never have been the objects of sensation, and which are never expected to be objects of sensation during the present connection of intellect with the body; a reference to beings of a distinct order, not inhabitants of any settled clime, which have never been the objects of sensation, which are

considered as purely intellectual, among which is acknowledged an infinitely powerful Being, the Ruler of all beings and all things, the acknowledgment of influences and impulses which never have been and which in their nature never can be the objects of sensation, and which have no actual being or existence, such as maxims of moral rectitude, having for their object a reference to that supreme Being; a reference to a separate existence of intellect from bodily organs, both during the union of the intellect with the body, and after what is called the death of the body; a reference to future affections of the intellect after its separation from the body,—these appear to be the characteristics of the human intellect.” He admits that it is possible that traditionary information may, as many suppose, lay the foundation of those operations in perhaps every instance; still the maintenance, the cultivation, the prosecution of these operations may be supposed to be chiefly within the province of the soul, which we must suppose to derive affection from the mind, and to be assisted in its operation by the mind. Dr. Uwins states, that many who have written in favour of immaterialism, have, in his mind, proved themselves the greatest and grossest of materialists. “The facts seem to have been,” observes the doctor, “too much lost sight of, that the questions to be agitated are of a nature totally distinct, and have reference to a distinct species of argumentation. If mind or spirit, according to the statement of some, consists of a something appended to the body, the question will for ever recur, What is that something? and when the spiritualist replies to this query—A subtle matter,—in the very terms of his answer he acknowledges himself a materialist, since all grant that matter is capable of division and subtilization beyond the reach of our perceptive powers. Again,” says the doctor, “if it be this subtle something which gives animation, and if it be its presence that indicates perpetuity of existence, Mr. Laurance, Sir Charles Morgan, and others, are perfectly correct in maintaining, that, by the assumption, we necessarily immortalize the dog that basks by our side, nay, the insect that annoys us. No, no, *non tali auxilio*, it is upon other and more tenable ground that we must take our stand in opposing sceptical inferences.—We must appeal to the ‘man within the breast’ for a re-solution of the great problem, and must leave physiology to its own powers and province. It was,” proceeds Dr. Uwins, “with this feeling that we felt particular pleasure in perusing a very masterly pamphlet, entitled ‘A Letter to the Rev. Thomas Rennell, concerning his Remarks on Scepticism, from a Graduate in Medicine of the University of Oxford.’”

These gentlemen have taken great pains in attempting to prove what no sane person doubts; and if it be true that “one sat up a whole night in consequence of finding his spirit alive to the subject,” we think, from the weakness of his arguments, he would have slept to a better purpose.

PRESERVATION OF MEAT, &c.—Dr. MacSweeney has addressed the following letter, being his second, to Mr. Tilloch, on this subject.—The substance of his first letter we gave in our last number.

"Sir,—The facility with which cutlery of every kind may be put in water deprived of oxygen by iron filings, and covered with oil, makes it a matter of some consequence to ascertain whether a large quantity of iron has the power of decomposing water at ordinary temperatures. Unbiased by any opinion on the subject, and desirous only of arriving at truth, I have been led to make the following experiments.

"I put a quarter of an ounce of iron-filings in two ounces and a half of water boiled and covered with oil; at the end of twelve days the appearance of the iron-filings was unchanged." I put a large quantity of iron-filings in a phial, and covered them with a layer of warm water about a quarter of an inch thick; the water was covered with oil, a bent tube was attached to the phial, and the end was left under a receiver in a pneumatic apparatus during a week; no hydrogen was evolved. A small phial was nearly filled with iron-filings, some boiled water was poured in so as to form a thin layer over them; oil was placed on the water, a bent tube was fitted to the phial, and the end was left under a receiver during a week, as in the former experiment. No trace of hydrogen was discovered. A test tube was nearly filled with mercury, some paper containing iron-filings, moistened with warm water, was forced in a short way; the tube was then filled to the brim with mercury, and was inverted over the same fluid. It was kept inverted during five days; no hydrogen was given off. Some paper, containing moistened iron-filings, was forced up to the end of a test-tube with a quill; the tube was then kept inverted over mercury. The mercury rose rapidly in the tube until it attained a certain height, where it remained stationary, evidently from the absorption of the oxygen of the atmospheric air contained in the tube, as was to be expected from the experiments of Dr. Marshall Hall. The glass-vessels containing the water and iron were moved several times during the course of these experiments: perhaps a state of perfect rest may be necessary for the decomposition of water by a large quantity of iron at ordinary temperatures. But it appears difficult to me to reconcile these experiments with the account which states that it takes place rapidly.

"In a former paper I stated that I had put some fresh meat in water covered with oil, with some iron to abstract oxygen; and that its appearance was unchanged at the end of seven weeks. In the first place I neglected to state that the meat had been boiled; in the second place I judged of its state of preservation entirely from its appearance through the glass-vessel. After allowing it to remain ten weeks in the water, I removed it: it was found softened, the structure was not much changed, but its odour was offensive. To keep meat as dry and as cool as possible during warm weather is the plan that ought to be attended to.

"Where bales of goods are moist by any accident, and it is not in the power of persons to unpack them immediately to dry the goods, it may perhaps be found useful, for preventing mildew, to immerse them in water, and to cover its surface with oil.

"I have found that the decay of vegetable substances is very much retarded by immersing them in water covered with oil and deprived

of oxygen by iron. A vegetable substance may be sunk by attaching a weight to it; any iron employed for abstracting oxygen ought to be previously removed.

"Water in a situation where it is scarce may be preserved, I presume, in an open cask by covering its surface with a thick layer of oil, and by putting in recently prepared charcoal. The trouble of preparing powdered charcoal is an objection to its use. Large pieces of fresh-made charcoal should be attached to a weight, and let down through the oil into the water by means of a cord. The charring of the cask long since recommended, ought to be attended to. After the charcoal has remained for some time in the water, it ought to be drawn up by the cord, and recently-prepared pieces should be attached to the weight, and let down. This could be repeated daily, and the water could be drawn from a cock at the lower part of the cask. In this manner charcoal could be put in or removed without exposing the surface of the water to the atmosphere.

"I remain your most obedient humble Servant,

"*London, Aug. 17th, 1819.*

"JOSEPH MACSWEENEY."

MEDICAL COURT MARTIAL,—SIRs,—The court martial held upon Staff Surgeon Lindsay, having engaged considerable attention, inasmuch as it involves the question as to the efficacy of Sir William Adams's treatment of ophthalmia, and shews the feelings of the army medical officers towards him, I trust some few observations upon it may not be irrelevant to the nature of your useful and popular publication. I shall not enter into the detail of the evidence and defence, which have been before the public in the newspapers, but confine myself to the facts that appeared on the trial. If I understand it rightly, there were two soldiers taken without any notice from under the care of Surgeon Lindsay, and placed under the care of Sir William Adams, in order to have the supposed benefit to be derived from his treatment. These men were, after some time, declared by Sir William Adams fit for duty, and sent to the depôt; but no sooner were they released from the restrictions of hospital regimen, and able to live as soldiers will do that are in a state of health, than the disease in their eyes was again apparent: they were examined by the army surgeons, declared unfit for service, and invalided. These men were to appear before the commander in chief, and Surgeon Lindsay wrote to his friend, Surgeon Dease, to allow the men to live as soldiers would do, and to be permitted to drink and smoke as the others did, in order that when they appeared before the commander in chief, they might have *proper* vascular cornea; and a caution was given that Sir William Adams should not have notice of the arrival of these men for inspection. This letter was sent to the War Office to be franked, where a copy of it was taken, and the enquiry instituted in consequence.

Taking this case up from the commencement, there certainly was, if I understand any thing of professional etiquette, great indelicacy on the part of Sir William Adams in receiving these men under his care, until dismissed from the superintendence of Surgeon Lindsay; and I cannot help thinking that those persons, by whose orders

they were so transferred, shewed but little the feelings of gentlemen. The result of Sir William Adams's treatment is not very creditable to any new theory he may have set up, or merit he may claim of a superior mode of relieving this affliction, which seems, by the evidence of its consequences, to be nothing more than a perseverance in the antiphlogistic mode of treatment—a mere temporary palliative in chronic cases, and which is useful as far as allowing proper remedies to be applied, but will not cure.

Surgeon Lindsay seeing the cases in this light, and probably looking on Sir William Adams as an Empiric, was desirous of having the men appear before the commander in chief, in the same state as they really would be if allowed the liberty of living as soldiers are wont to do, and therefore wrote the letter in question, which has given rise to this investigation. Some of the expressions used by Surgeon Lindsay, are certainly much below the standard we should have expected from a professional man,—the term *proper* vascular cornea meaning only that the vessels, from which the superabundant blood had been diverted by low living and medicine, would again become turgid, and of course redness of the eyes, and inflammatory appearances would be evident, if the patient lived in the usual manner; but *proper* is, as Surgeon Dease explained it in my hearing, only a *cant vulgar* phrase, and, I presume, intends to convey the idea of an extreme degree.

In considering Surgeon Lindsay's defence, I see much reason to condemn it: there can, I think, be no doubt but he thought, and was convinced in his own mind, that Sir William Adams pretended to have cured cases, when, in point of fact, the disease was only rendered less visible to common or unprofessional observers, and if what he considered a deception was suffered to go on, Sir William Adams could cast the army medical officers into the shade, and build his fame on their supposed want of ability. Now if Surgeon Lindsay had boldly stated this kind of feeling in his defence, and avowed that his conduct was influenced by a desire to prevent imposition upon the commander in chief, and the public service, (for such he evidently considered it), and his desire that Sir William Adams should not be apprised of the men coming up, in order to prevent the possibility of their being subjected to the same treatment, and thereby appearing under false colours, proves such to have been his intention; it would, in the opinion of all with whom I have conversed, have reflected greater credit on him, than to have talked about breach of confidence at the War Office, in opening his letter, &c. &c.; for it is well known they have a right to open any letters of that nature, sent to the office to be franked, if they suspect such letters are *not* on public service.

The friends of Sir William Adams may think they have gained a point in his favour by instituting this court martial, but the impression on my mind is, that they have done him a great injury; for the statements made at the trial must be completely disproved, otherwise the world will place but little confidence in any future accounts of cures, and will suspect them to be merely proofs that he is acquainted with a method of rendering the evil less evident,

which every common surgeon knows how to effect. A plain question to Sir William Adams will decide the public opinion;—Are these men, said to be cured, and reported by him fit for service, now in the army in consequence of his first or any subsequent treatment? or are they dismissed the service as incapable, in consequence of that disease?

I am, Sir, Yours, &c.

MEDICUS.

Since we have received the letter of Medicus, we have been favored by a correspondent with the following prescription given by Sir W. Adams, for what he is pleased to call his Ophthalmic Drops

Take of Corrosive Sublimate of Mercury, 1 grain;

Muriatic Acid (commonly called Spirits of Salts) 1 drop;

Wine of Opium, 1 ounce. Mix. Make a Solution, and add,

Calomel, 1 drachm and a half;

Extract of Deadly Night Shade, 1 drachm. Mix, and make Ophthalmic Drops.

If this remedy, dropped into the eye, did not benefit in nine months, Sir William adds, it may be discontinued.—The patient has used it for some years, but no benefit has resulted!

IRREGULAR EMPIRICISM.—GENTLEMEN,—In your number for March, 1818, a lady complained of the treatment she experienced in consulting Mr. Astley Cooper, who she considers was prevented, by knocks at the door of his audience chamber, from attending to the case of his patient so fully as he otherwise might have done, and she was equally prevented from stating her sensations as she wished to do.—Your correspondent goes on to remark, that she understands it is a common practice at that gentleman's house, and makes some very proper observations on the result of such a method of dismissing patients.

I did hope, that the certain degree of feeling and gentleman-like conduct, which ought always to attend the behaviour of medical men, would have prevented Mr. Astley Cooper from allowing such observations to have been thought necessary by any individual; and that, long ere this, we should have had either a refutation of them, or, if they existed so generally, there would have been an alteration in the manners of Mr. A. Cooper's servant; but, I am sorry to say, the mode of proceeding is nearly the same; after you have been a few minutes with the master, the servant opens the door and then shuts it in a way so violent, that, together with the servant's scowling brow, he gives you fair notice to quit, and is impatient at your delay.

Reasoning from my own feelings, I think no servant would dare to act thus twice in my house, without my orders or wish, and therefore we cannot but suppose he is authorised to continue the practice. I wish I could bring my mind to think it is merely suffered by his master, in consequence of the abstraction of mind arising from his necessary attention to the numerous cases that present themselves before him; and I call on Mr. Astley Cooper to awake from such abstraction, and reflect that in this temporary state, if he has acquired superior knowledge, it is his duty to impart his utmost assistance to his suffering fellow-creatures, receiving

a reasonable reward for his exertions; and that the afflicted, who perhaps have travelled many miles, at the risk even of their lives or comforts, under a confidence of relief arising from *their* opinion of his abilities, and influenced by the enervating effects of disease or timidity, feel embarrassed in telling their sufferings, should not be interrupted by the conduct of his servant, or scared out of the house by his looks; who, if unauthorised, is impertinent, but if authorised, the master deserves epithets of a nature not very creditable to him as a professional man.

The folly of the world, in running with every common case to fashionable surgeons and physicians, has always been tolerably evident; but at the present day, when those great men have little more time to bestow upon their patients than to hear they are troubled with such a complaint, receive an unmeaning or unthought-of prescription, with a bow and a smile on paying their fee, it is the very height of madness on one side, and imposture on the other. It would be far more honest and honourable to take the legal profession for their guide, and proportion the fee to the celebrity of the adviser, the length of time the consideration of the case required, and conscientiously give the patient a fair attention, and the best advice the imperfect science of medicine will allow.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,
CASTIGATOR.

These observations lead us to the recollection of a prescription of Mr. A. Cooper's, which no doubt he must think he has discovered to be very generally useful, as he has prescribed it in a case of debility, another of rheumatism, and a third of gutta serena,—and, as these cases vary so much, it is a fair inference to suppose that it is a sort of panacea in his opinion; but it proved useless to each of these patients.

Take Carbonate of Ammonia (common smelling salts) half a drachm;

Mint Water, five ounces and a half;

Compound Tincture of Cardamoms, 2 drachms;

Mix. Take two table-spoonsful twice a day.

The dose of carbonate of ammonia is from five to fifteen grains, but is more frequently given in pills than any other form; and we think, as it is insoluble in spirits, the addition of the tincture of cardamoms, which is made with spirit, reduces the capability of the menstruum to hold it in solution.

Another prescription of this gentleman's has been communicated to us, given in a case of debility, want of tone in the digestive organs, vertigo and tendency to paralysis, of which there had been two attacks, and a slight eruption on the skin.

Take Spirit of Nitric Ether, two ounces;

Corrosive sublimate, two grains;

Dose. Two tea-spoonsful twice a day in water.

The latter article joined with antimony is sometimes given in cutaneous affections, but we think other articles of the *Materia Medica* are much superior; in the above case a substitution of simple medicine, under another medical adviser, removed the vertigo, tendency to paralysis, and gave tone to the powers of digestion.

As in no one of these four cases, the foregoing prescriptions rendered the least service, we think Mr. A. Cooper (who, we are informed, constantly reads our work) will do well to devise some other methods of treating similar complaints, because it is not enough for a man to get into fashion, he must prove his superiority by a sensible combination of medicines in his prescriptions, founded on something like reason.

SCIRRHOUS TUMOURS.—M. Bouillon Lagrange has published, in the Parisian Journal of Pharmacy, a recipe for making a plaster, which, he states, has been found very beneficial in dispersing indurated tumours in the female breast, some of which had considerably advanced towards the cancerous state. He is of opinion that it acts with a singular influence on the exhalents of the skin, from which a large quantity of reddish-coloured viscons secretion takes place, which speedily effects a resolution and total disappearance of the largest and hardest enlargement of glands or other parts of the body, as the membranes of joints, bones, &c. &c. The following is a translation of the receipt:

Take of Diachylon plaster, four ounces;
 Yellow Wax, one ounce;
 White Soap and Turpentine, of each half an ounce;
 Recently powdered Hemlock,
 Sulphuret of Potass, of each two drachms;
 Powdered Camphor, half an ounce.

Melt the diachylon with a gentle heat in an earthen vessel, and then add the yellow wax, soap, and turpentine: when these are well blended, remove the vessel from the fire; and when getting thick, add the hemlock, sulphuret of potass, and camphor. On account of the volatility of the articles, on which its discutient property depends, care should be taken in making the composition, that the active qualities of the ingredients be not dissipated.

In consequence of the high terms in which M. Bouillon Lagrange and other eminent practitioners speak of this plaster, as a remedy for indurated tumours, enlargement of joints, &c., we have ordered it to be kept at the Medical Hall, 171, Piccadilly, in order that it may have a *fair* trial in this country. It is necessary to observe, that it should not be spread with a heated spatula in the usual manner, but softened by holding it at a distance from the fire, which will not dissipate its volatile parts, and when sufficiently soft, it should be spread with the end of the thumb on leather.

WOUNDED ARTERIES.—At a late meeting of the faculty of Paris, Professor Dupuytren stated, that he then had a patient under his care, on whom he was employing compression for the cure of a wound of the femoral artery by a knife. He related many facts that have occurred in his practice, which lead him to conclude, contrary to the prevailing opinion, that incised wounds of arteries may be cured without either the obliteration of their cavity, or the subsequent formation of aneurism. He mentioned the case of a patient with a rupture of the femoral artery, as it crosses the third adductor muscle, whom he intended to treat by the same plan of compression. If

any surgeon should be induced to adopt this mode of treatment, in case of an incision or puncture of the femoral artery, we do conceive that it is a duty incumbent on him to continue with the patient day and night, till the part has clearly united.—To this advice we have no doubt Mr. Astley Cooper or Mr. Cline would, in such a case, attend, from a conviction that their time could not be disposed of to a greater advantage.

ILIAC PASSION.—In a case of this disease, Dr. Brandis, a member of the Royal Society of Medicine of Copenhagen, has administered iced water with complete success. He did not see the patient till eleven days after the attack; he was then in a most alarming state, the extremities being cold, attended with delirium, hickup, and a countenance indicative of approaching dissolution. He ordered iced water to be administered, and the belly to be covered with clothes dipped in it. In a few hours the delirium ceased. On the expiration of twenty-four hours the extremities became warm, the hickup less frequent, the vomiting considerably abated, and soon afterwards ceased. The constipation however continued, notwithstanding lavements of cold and of warm water had been frequently repeated. The doctor then prescribed opium, in small doses, and the decoction of the peruvian bark, with ice. The patient continued a week in this state, during which time, the vomiting uniformly returned on the application of the cold water being omitted. At length a looseness came on, the cold application was then discontinued, and in the space of four days, with the aid of nutritive food, (cold) the re-establishment of health was complete. The doctor concludes, “after such unexpected success, I placed my whole confidence in this mode of treatment, and my hope has never been deceived. I have applied cold fomentations to the abdomen of delicate women, as well as of robust men; and I have found in it a sure and prompt remedy. I have used it in a man 68 years of age, on the 8th day, from an attack of the iliac passion, which left nothing to hope. This patient was cured, although there was in the groin a small rupture, with a gangrenous appearance.”

There being much confusion in the description of the iliac passion given by many authors, we subjoin the following definition of the disease for the information of our non-medical readers. An acute pain in the abdomen, with an inversion of the peristaltic motion of the bowels, so that their contents are ejected by vomiting. It is usually an acute disease, but not essentially inflammatory—it is sometimes gouty, but generally brought on by excessive use of vegetable subacid fruit, and the mineral and vegetable poisons, particularly lead.—Dr. Cullen considered it of the nature of spasmodic cholera.

CHILBLAIN.—“Sirs, I beg to recommend, through the medium of your very valuable publication, a preventive of this most distressing complaint, which I have found infallible, and which, after inflammation has taken place, I am satisfied is the most efficacious remedy that can be employed. The article I allude to is, the plaster of the ammoniac gum, hemlock, and mercury, which

is kept by most respectable chemists. It should be spread on thin soft leather.

"I am, Sirs, Your constant reader,
"London, Sept. 6th, 1819. "R. J. JACKSON, M.D."

INSANITY, &c.—Mr. Sutcliffe, in a late communication, states, that he has administered the ground ivy for more than twenty years in cases of mental aberration and melancholy, with an advantage, which disposes him to consider it a highly valuable remedy in those diseases. He thinks that it acts as a *direct* sedative. When its operation is salutary, it tranquillises the patient; and when organic disease does not exist, the affection depending on a casual cause of excitement, he is seldom disappointed in his expectation of a favourable termination of the malady under its use.

The mode in which he generally directs it to be employed, is a wine-glassful of the expressed juice twice or thrice a day. When this preparation cannot be administered, he prescribes a proportionate quantity of the extract, but his observations have not led him to repose so full a degree of confidence in the latter as in the former preparation of the plant. In cases of insanity, where the "*high arterial excitement*" requires local treatment, he has found it conjoined with abstraction of blood, generally to lead the disease to a favourable issue. In some cases he totally failed, which he attributes to the existence of organic disease. He adds, that his object in making the communication is, "to draw the attention of practitioners to this remedy, and to extend the benefits that may be derived from it beyond the circle of his own personal avocations." The medical qualities of the ground ivy, he supposes, are not sufficiently known to the members of the profession, in consequence of its not being noticed in the late pharmacopœias. We believe it is well known to every practitioner, that the ground ivy is a peculiar anodyne, and as such it has been extensively exhibited in cases of nervous excitement with various success, particularly in epilepsy, Saint Vitus's dance, and local nervous affection, as head-ache, asthma, and also in insanity, hypochondriasis, and melancholy. In many parts of this country, the infusion of it is a popular remedy for a variety of nervous affections; and this, with some practitioners, is a very good reason for abandoning its use. We advise Mr. Sutcliffe to relinquish the use of technicalities, and employ terms which he fully understands himself, and the meaning of which cannot be misunderstood by his readers. "*High arterial excitement*," and arterial plethora, are not synonymous expressions. Arterial excitement depends upon the condition of the nerves, and not on the quantity of blood the artery contains. It is as often attendant on depletion as plenitude, and shews more the state of the nervous system than the state of the arterial system with respect to the quantity or quality of the blood. The term *local reduction*, which he employs, is also ridiculous. Men of science never have recourse to fine-sounding terms.

PRESERVATION OF THE TEETH.—Messrs. Sherwood and Co. have lately published a new edition of Mr. Hertz's "*Familiar Treatise on the Preservation, &c. of the Teeth*." The author, after

describing the structure, source of nourishment, &c. of the teeth, enters fully into the progress of dentition, and its attendant diseases; a subject highly interesting to nurses. In the chapter on the management of the teeth, we discover much novelty and very useful information. The use of tincture of myrrh and arquebuse, as a lotion for the gums, he condemns on account of the irritation their stimulating quality excites in them, occasioning spongy structure, and ultimately looseness and caries of the teeth. The morning, before breakfast, he recommends as not only the most convenient, but the best time for cleaning the teeth, the deposit, improperly termed *tartar*, being accumulated during the night. "The following method," says the professor, "I have long adopted; which, from repeated and extensive experience, I can confidently recommend to my readers. Before its adoption, I suffered much by tooth ache, and pains in the face and head. Indeed, the advantages I have derived from it have been so great, that I conceive it my duty to communicate it to the public, in which I have no other interest or view, than to lessen the sum of human sufferings."

"The first thing every morning I rinse my mouth out with cold water; I then gently pass over the gums inwardly and outwardly a fine piece of sponge (fastened to an ivory handle) moistened with an equal quantity of tincture of the rhatany root and rose water, after which, I rub the surface of the teeth with a similar piece of sponge, moistened with the diluted tincture of rhatany root, as above, with the surface covered with finely levigated charcoal of the Areca nut. This I finish, by rinsing the mouth out again with cold water. I only employ a brush to remove any morbid secretion of the gums that may collect on the inside and between the teeth. If this simple treatment be adopted, I will engage for it, that the person shall remain free from any fresh disease of the teeth, and pains in the jaw, and that carious teeth, which he may have had at the time, will be rendered sweet, and the progress of the disease effectually suspended."

Dr. James Lynd, an eminent physician of Bengal, has made use of the levigated charcoal of the Areca nut many years, and at the age of eighty he possesses a complete set of healthy and firm teeth.—The following is an extract from the doctor's letter on the subject:

"The Areca is most highly useful, and the very best dentifrice that can be used; for since modern chemistry has discovered the wonderful medicinal powers of charcoal, the Areca or Betel nut charcoal must be superior to any other for a dentifrice, which I can recommend, having used it twenty-five years in Bengal.

"When I arrived in England, after a long voyage of seven months, supposing my teeth wanted the aid of a dentist, I applied to a respectable one in London, who was astonished to find my teeth so sound in a person of my age; and also observed, that all the *East Indians who employed him, had better teeth than the people of England of similar age*, and which I attribute to the use of the *Areca nut tooth powder*, which must be infinitely more efficacious than charcoal prepared from any other vegetable substance whatever.

"The natives of India rub their teeth up and down with brushes, made of chewed ends of fibrous soft wood, dragon's blood, canes, and mallow roots, which clean the interstices of the teeth, whereas the common tooth brushes, by rubbing in a horizontal direction, only wear off the enamel from the prominent parts of the teeth, which the famous dentist, Mr. Beardmore, has cautioned us not to do, and I have contrived a brush to prevent it.

"The dentifrice prepared by powdering charcoal, cannot be equal in virtue to the mungun, prepared from the Areca, betel nut, or suparey, however they may puff it off by quackish advertisements.

JAMES LYND, M. D."

We have made use of this charcoal nearly twenty years, during which time we have remained free from tooth-ache, and our teeth have continued healthy. Previous to its use we were very subject to tooth ache, and at the time we adopted it, caries had commenced in many of them, which has been checked by this dentifrice. Professor Heriz says, he is satisfied that if the Areca charcoal was universally adopted in this country, "there would be no necessity for dentists," an opinion in which we perfectly coincide. As a remedy for tooth-ache, the professor states, that he has found the composition discovered by Mr. Perry (sold under the name of Perry's Essence) not only the most innocent, but the most speedy and effectual of all the remedies that have been recommended.

PULMONARY CONSUMPTION.—Dr. Laennec lately presented to the French Academy of Sciences an instrument, by which organic diseases of the lungs may be discovered. M. Percy was appointed by the Academy to make a special inquiry into the utility of the instrument, and the report he has made is extremely favourable. The little advantage, says he, which has in many cases been derived from the percussion of the breast, according to the method of Avenbrugger, and a consideration of the facility with which sound is transmitted through solid bodies, suggested to the inventor the idea of studying, by the aid of similar intermediums, the different sounds which the movements of the respiratory and circulating organs produce in the interior of the chest, and of ascertaining whether the sounds which they emit might not give some more certain signs than those already known, as to the maladies with which they may be affected. The instrument, which M. Laennec made use of for this purpose, was a cylinder of wood, one foot in length, sixteen lines in diameter, and perforated in the centre (like a pipe) by a bore of three lines diameter. This instrument, when applied to the chest of a healthy individual when speaking or singing, only produces a sort of humming sound, more marked at certain points of the chest than others. But when there exists an ulcer on the lungs, the humming sound changes into a phenomenon altogether singular, which the inventor calls *pectoriloquy*, and which the reporter, M. Percy, regards as sufficient for furnishing a certain and easy sign of any alterations in the state of the lungs. M. Laennec distinguishes three sorts of *pectoriloquy*, which, according to his anatomical researches, correspond with the size of the ulcers, with their state of vacuity or fulness, and with the consistency of

the matter which they inclose. In advanced stages of pulmonary consumption, we have always discovered, on pressing between the true ribs, when the chest is distended, a peculiar emphysematous feel, conveying the idea that air is diffused through the cellular substance of the lungs, and this we have uniformly found an unfavourable symptom.

GAME.—A nobleman, residing in Scotland, desires us to state that, by the following means, he has preserved game from putrefaction many weeks, and that grouse sent in this state, by him, from Scotland to his friends in Town, has arrived perfectly sweet:—“Wrap a piece of ice, the size of a walnut, in some linen cloth, two or three times folded, then immerse it in the strong pure lignic acid, and put it inside of the bird, wrap the bird up in a piece of linen also, moistened with the same acid.” He has found the pure lignic acid answer without ice.

TEA.—We have received a long letter from a Dr. R. Jones, of London, on the poisonous quality of the leaves imported into this country from China, under the names of Bohea, Souchong, Green, &c. Tea. His experiments confirm our reports of its deleterious properties and baneful effects on the nervous coat of the stomach. He attributes to its use the prevalence of indigestion, nervous headache, gout, general nervous excitability of the system, and a variety of other diseases, to its chemical operation on the nervous system. During its use, he was subject to gout, indigestion, and a long train of nervous affections, from which he has been entirely free since he left it off. He makes use of the composition of British herbs, noticed in a former number of our work, which he obtains at No. 1, Clarendon Square, Somers Town. He proposes some addition to the composition to render it more agreeable to the palate, and more wholesome, which have been adopted.—We regret that we have not room for the insertion of his letter, on account of the valuable practical remarks it contains on the necessity of attending to the state of the stomach in cases of gout and other hereditary diseases. We shall give it in our next number.

STONE IN THE BLADDER.—A gentleman having long been afflicted with considerable pain in the region of the bladder, and other symptoms of stone, applied to two eminent surgeons of London; who, after examining the bladder, gave their opinions decidedly that there was no calculus in the bladder, and that his sufferings arose from a morbid condition of nerves. He was treated accordingly, and from the use of anodyne and cooling medicines, he derived some advantage. The symptoms recurring in a violent degree after travelling to Birmingham, he consulted Mr. Frere, the leading surgeon of that town, who, on examining the bladder, discovered a calculus. The high character of Mr. Frere induced him to place himself entirely under his care. The operation of lithotomy was accordingly performed, and at the expiration of a fortnight he was pronounced well. The calculus was of the size of a pigeon's egg, and of the mulberry form. We insert this case to induce our leading surgeons to devote a little more time to the examination of patients, and to their history of their sufferings.—If a patient gives an *extra* fee of three guineas to a surgeon, we think he is entitled to a little *extra* attention. He might at least expect not to be interrupted by the servant's knuckles on the door for the space of fifteen minutes. If, on examining a bladder, the grating sensation is evident, denoting the existence of a calculus, the surgeon is

not to suppose that he has done his duty; for it is of the first importance to the patient to ascertain if the calculus be not attached from the bladder, and if it be a fair case for the operation. The unfortunate results of the operation, into the particulars of which we have had the opportunity to enquire, have arisen from the laceration produced by the forcible extraction of the calculi which adhered to the bladder. In a former number we have noticed a case in which the operation terminated most disastrously. That patient was told in our presence that the calculus was attached to the bladder, and therefore not a proper case for the operation. The calculus was small, and as he had passed, some years ago, two calculi evidently as large, we advised him to take, two or three times a-day, a tumbler of a solution of magnesia, in water impregnated with the carbonic acid gas, and to attend to his general health. We also prescribed a mixture to keep down morbid irritation in the bladder. By following this advice, we assured him that the probability was, the stone would be detached; and that, like the others, it would pass through the urethra. After having persevered in this treatment one month, although his sufferings were greatly mitigated, by the entreaty of a friend he consented to consult a physician, under whose care he had recovered from dangerous attack of pleurisy!! This physician recommended a surgeon, who, on examination of the bladder, discovered a calculus. The operation was urged; and as the surgeon offered to perform it for half the lowest sum Mr. Ashley expected, he was employed.—The calculus was forcibly removed; inflammation of the bladder ensued, which terminated in mortification. The sufferings of the patient resisted the powers of the strongest opiates.

REPORT OF DISEASES.—The metropolis, to the great credit of the faculty of medicine, and no doubt to their great joy, has been for the last two months particularly healthy. This may, in some measure, be attributed to its deserted state; or, as some ill-natured people have insinuated, to the absence of many physicians, who are flourishing away at the fashionable watering places. It appears also, that in the country, medical men are much at their leisure; indeed, so much so in Norfolk, Essex, and Suffolk, that if it were not for the failures of cow pox, "they would have little or nothing to do." In consequence of the great abundance of fruit of every description, enlargement of the bowels, and worms, are common among children, which, it should be remembered by parents, are the forerunners of scrofula and other diseases.—As a remedy for worms, and also for enlarged bowels, the basilic powder is the most efficacious remedy we are acquainted with,—it not only destroys worms, but carries off superabundant slime, &c. The best method of administering this powder, is mixed with gingerbread, on account of its ponderosity, and in this form it is readily taken by children. Each nut contains 20 grains, which is a dose for an adult; a quarter of a nut is sufficient for a child of five years of age, and half of one for one of from seven to ten years of age, and so in proportion. These nuts may be obtained at the Medical Hall, 171, Piccadilly. We have met with some cases of Cough, which have, (after having resisted other remedies, and attended with symptoms of incipient consumption,) gradually given way to the use of the lettuce lozenges. The inspissated *white* juice of the lettuce, which forms their basis, evidently (as Dr. Duncan, of Edinburgh, has observed) allays morbid irritation of the membrane lining the windpipe, &c. more effectually than any other remedy. Of Mr. Want's remedy for gout, and Mr. Lochyer's magnesia in cases of gout and gravel, we hear much commendation.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 47.

To NOVEMBER 1, 1819.

VOL. IV.

OF DR. MATON,

Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, late Physician to the Westminster Infirmary, and to the late Queen.

THIS gentleman is a native of Somersetshire, where he spent his youthful days, and acquired his first proficiency in learning. He commenced his medical studies under the late Dr. Pulteney, of Blandford, a celebrated botanist, of whose life he has published a biographical memoir. His classical education he received at Oxford, but for a knowledge of *modern* medicine he is indebted to the hospitals of Edinburgh and London, which he attended till he was properly qualified to commence the practice of medicine in the capacity of a physician. On settling in London, he claimed his right of being admitted a member of the Royal College of Physicians, in consequence of having graduated at Oxford, which, as a matter of course, was granted. The office of physician to the Westminster Infirmary becoming vacant, Dr. Maton offered himself a candidate, and was unanimously elected. The duties of this important station he discharged for many years, in a manner that gave perfect satisfaction to the governors; and the periodical works on medicine of those days, bear ample testimony of his desire to promote medical science, by communicating the particulars of the cases of interest, or that were likely to throw additional light on the nature or treatment of diseases. The reputation he thus justly acquired introduced him to an extensive practice, and to the notice of the Queen, who appointing him physician in ordinary to her person, he found it necessary to relinquish his hospital appointment.

During the period of his censorship, he was much condemned by two practitioners for severity they supposed he evinced in the discharge of his duty; but his conduct on the occasion, which gave them offence, was very liberal, and in every respect creditable to him, as a sincere promoter of medical science, and supporter of the *true* honour and respectability of the college. Although an active member of the establishment, and a great stickler for its rights, he has never shewn that narrowness of mind, and spirit of monopoly, which have disgraced many of its members. In supporting the rights of the college, he has not sullied his own dignity as a philosopher; and if the government of it were resigned to him, the doors would be thrown open to all who were found to be worthy of admission, without any prejudice as to the place of their education. With him the only subject of enquiry would be as to their competency to exercise the important office of physician, and to maintain the respectability of the character in society. The same may be said of Sir Henry

Halford, Sir J. Faulkner, and Drs. Lambe, Cooke, and Ager. On account of his professional attainments, Dr. Maton was appointed one of the committee for revising the Pharmacopœia, and in the department he superintended, viz. the *materia medica*, the principal, if not the only improvements the work received, are to be found. As a proof of the confidence of all his colleagues, he was, a short time since, unanimously appointed to the office of treasurer, and we believe that it is generally understood, that he will fill the president's chair on the first vacancy.

The specimens Dr. Maton has given of literary abilities, in his Life of Dr. Pulteney, and his periodical contributions to the stock of medical knowledge, evince the discrimination and penetration of the philosopher, and the style of the scholar. We cannot conclude this short sketch of a character, which we would hold up as worthy the imitation of junior physicians, without expressing a hope, that he will occasionally exercise his pen for the promotion of medical science, and consequently for the benefit of mankind, and his influence with his colleagues for the abolition of those narrow bye laws, which have lowered them in the opinion of men of liberality and scientific attainments; and to adopt such as are more applicable to the present state of medicine in England, and more calculated to keep up a spirit of emulation and ardour among its members.

The charter was granted to the College by Henry the Seventh, in the days of bigotry and superstition. Classical knowledge being then the only test of competency, the candidates were examined by the Bishop of London, and Dean of St. Paul's. Dr. Securis, a physician of Salisbury, in the sixteenth century, drew up seven articles "for the *honest and lawful* use of physic," in which he proposed, that *midwives* should be examined by the Bishop of London; and till within the last five years, the College has accordingly granted licences to accoucheurs, although the examiners were totally ignorant of the art!! When the College was first established, the Roman Catholic system prevailed of keeping the laity in ignorance; persecution of men of scientific attainments, or of investigating minds, was the order of the day. When even experiments were made to establish new discoveries, bigotry supported her wretched opposition, by resorting to superstition, by which the charge of unhallowed compacts with Satan was readily made, and most readily received. Hence every man who knew more than the priest was branded as a magician, and effectually silenced by punishment, if they failed to terrify him into a renunciation. In those gloomy times, all men bowed to monkish authority; physicians and judges, legislators and sovereigns, were alike submissive to the *wise* or *politic* decrees of those ghostly tyrants. The charter was originally granted to the College in the true monkish spirit; and notwithstanding the progress of general knowledge, and the revolutions in the science of medicine, some of the Fellows of the College seemed determined to support their monkish rights and privileges, by confining its government to the graduates of the English universities, although they are no longer schools of medicine. Even in these days, the man who has received

the education of a priest, is an eligible candidate; and, as in the wretched times of bigotry and superstition, he is required to take an oath, that he will support the ancient rights and privileges of the College, as secured by their charter; whilst to the graduates of the first schools of medicine of the United Kingdom they grant a licence, which authorises them to prescribe in *simple* cases of diseases, declaring that they are not qualified to be admitted members of their *learned* body. The influence of bigotry, especially when connected with the domineering authority of the Church of Rome, has so far contributed to retard the progress of medicine, that a certain class of physicians, generally denominated "priest physicians," have remained stationary, while the class of surgeon-apothecaries, who are not under the monkish influence, have prosecuted their enquiries, for the benefit of mankind, into the laws of nature, without any dread of persecution. That the *medical* education of these practitioners is very superior to that of the "priest physicians," is a fact no unprejudiced or unbiggoted practitioner will deny.

But the College of Physicians pretend to be actuated by a most laudable desire of supporting the dignity and consequence of their members. This was the cant of the dark ages; but we will condescend to ask them, if they would not more effectually support their *dignity*, by shewing some regard for the *dignity* of science. The bye-laws of the College of Physicians, evince the ruling passion of the majority of its members. Indeed, the charter itself shews, the principal object the founders had in view, was to monopolize the practice of medicine in London and its environs; and hence its operation (luckily for the progress of medical science) was and still is confined within the distance of seven miles of London. If the benefit of "His Majesty's liege subjects" had really been their object, or that of Henry the Seventh and his successors who have confirmed the charter, it would not have been limited to London and its environs. Will the bigotted advocates for mystery and monkish rights say, that the lives of the "good and loyal citizens" of Bristol, Bath, and other places beyond the limits of their jurisdiction, are not as valuable to the community, and as much entitled to *Royal* protection as those of "the good City of London?" Have the College in this enlightened period to learn, that "medical bigotry and mystery" is the most contemptible species of quackery?

APOPLEXY.—For the following valuable remarks on the pre-disposition and prevention of this disease, so prevalent in this country, we are indebted to the celebrated Dr. Bricheteau:—

"Although apoplexy sometimes happens before the age of forty, yet the opinion of Hippocrates, that it chiefly affects persons between the fortieth and sixtieth year, does not appear to be correct. Indeed, subsequently to the period named by Hippocrates, plenitude more especially occurs in the vessels of the brain, after having successively manifested itself in the blood-vessels of the membranes, &c. of the chest and belly, by spitting of blood, piles, &c. The skin also, about the same time, loses its softness and permeability; the fluids retire toward the interior, and are more readily determined to any organ which may become the seat of irritation. From a table inserted in

Rochoux's work, it appears, out of sixty-three cases of apoplexy, two occurred between the twentieth and thirtieth year, eight between the thirtieth and fortieth, seven between the fortieth and fiftieth, ten between the fiftieth and sixtieth, twenty-three between the sixtieth and seventieth, twelve between the seventieth and eightieth, and one between the eightieth and ninetieth.

"No particular temperament seems to be particularly subject to attacks of apoplexy; for although corpulence has been said to predispose to it, dry and spare habits, according to the comparative tables of Rochoux, are more frequently its victims than the plethoric. Yet, if to the peculiarities of organization, remarked in most of those who were afflicted with apoplexy, and which, when combined, form the apoplectic constitution, characterised by a large head, red face, short and thick neck, broad shoulders, capacious chest, prominent belly, low stature, robust limbs, and considerable corpulence, are added habits calculated to produce a determination of blood to the brain, while the other organs are kept nearly in a state of inactive life, excitement is concentrated, as it were, in one point of the nervous system, all the functions dependent on the brain acquire a predominancy, and this surplus of vitality commonly effects the destruction of the individual.

"Among the predisposing causes of apoplexy may be enumerated, a too succulent and immoderate diet, frequent intoxication, excessive indulgence of passion in advanced age, and effeminate and indolent life suddenly succeeding to one of active occupation, the habitual use of warm water, or vapour baths, and the partial pressure of tight clothes. Certain professions in which the body is constantly bent, and the head dependent, predispose also to this disease. Grinders, miners, especially such as work in mines of quicksilver, and workmen in looking-glass manufactories, are frequently the victims of apoplexy. Bourbier speaks of a young man, whose paternal grandfather, father, and mother, died of apoplexy, and who himself, at the age of twenty-two, was afflicted with the precursory symptoms. He is a joiner, low in stature, with a short neck, and large head. During the last eighteen months, he has frequently been obliged to apply at l'Hotel-Dieu, on account of giddiness, and faltering of the tongue. After violent head-aches, attended with noise in the ears, and redness of the face, he is siezed with momentary dumbness, during which all objects subjected to his vision appear to have changed colour, and the carotid arteries throb with violence. The application of leeches succeeds in averting the impending danger. Epilepsy, the paroxysms of which are frequent and severe; rickets, which, by distortion of the chest, has impeded the circulation; disposition of the heart to aneurism, with thickening of its substance; obstruction of the larger arteries, in consequence of wound or aneurism; distension of the uterus, and constipation, may be considered predisposing causes of apoplexy.

"It has been asserted by some physicians, and, among others, by Rochoux, that apoplexy is rarely announced by any precursory symptom. This error probably arises from the circumstance of the symptoms being very slight; and hence, of the physician being

seldom consulted till the attack has taken place. But on cautiously questioning those who have experienced repeated attacks of apoplexy, we find symptoms highly important to be acquainted with at the commencement of the disease, are generally attendant. It is in peculiar cases only, that apoplexy attacks suddenly, without any premonitory symptom.

7 "This part of the history of apoplexy has commonly been neglected by authors; but M. Bourbier has ably filled up the void, in the thesis already quoted. The following description is taken from his work: 'Head-ache, confined to one side or point of the head, is one of the most constant precursory symptoms of apoplexy. This frequently recurs, and is sometimes accompanied by sense of weight, dazzled vision, stupor, giddiness, and singing in the ears. Less frequent, but equally certain, are, sudden flushings of the face, weakness, or momentary loss of sight and intellect, giddiness on stooping, and lastly, a real *coup de sang**;—frequently an inability to swallow, a stammering, and irresistible tendency to sleep, and sometimes slight distortion of the mouth, night mare, and frightful dreams;—the limbs grow weak, and totter on walking. There are occasional cramps, sensations of prickling, and of cold in the extremities; and in some cases such an imperfect sense of touch exists, that a slight gause seems to be placed between the fingers, and every object in contact with them.

— "Among these precursory symptoms may also be particularized squinting, double or fantastic vision, an appearance of luminous points, resembling electric sparks, especially at night; redness of the eyes, a blueish livid circle about the orbits, sudden blindness, and impaired hearing, taste, and smell. Sometimes half of the tongue, and one of the nostrils, only retain their respective powers. There are likewise convulsive motions of the eye, face, nostrils, and hands; unusual pulsation of the temporal artery, bleeding of the nose, announcing over distension of the vessels of the brain. All these signs are indeed observed in other affections of the brain; yet, if combined in any considerable number, *in the apoplectic habit*, they announce with great certainty an impending attack of this disease.

"It will readily be admitted that these symptoms, when occurring in persons of the apoplectic constitution, or those affected with aneurism of the heart, will acquire additional importance, and announce more pressing danger. I have frequently known patients suffering from this disease to complain of giddiness, and be suddenly

* This term is generally employed to express a sudden attack of apoplexy; but strictly speaking, it signifies only a momentary afflux of blood to the head, or a spurious fit of apoplexy, ushered in by all the precursory symptoms, which speedily disappears without a succession of any serious consequence, and for the most part, leaving the patient in a better state of health than he was previously to the attack. Young persons are subject to such attacks without the occurrence of real apoplexy. In advanced life, they are frequently the precursors of fatal apoplexy.

attacked by apoplexy. To such cases the following preventive treatment will particularly apply.

"The dangerous nature, and often promptly fatal issue of this disease, should induce the physician to collect, with the most minute attention, from his patients, its slightest precursory signs, so as, if possible, to prevent its taking place. This fortunate result may sometimes be, by vigilant observation, attained. Against an ill-placed confidence in the preservative and anti-apoplectic remedies, absurdly eulogized by some authors, it is superfluous to caution the enlightened readers, who must be aware that the preventive treatment of apoplexy should consist less in pharmaceutical resources, than in cautious observations of the rules of health. The superstitious prescriptions of some credulous writers on medicine, are calculated only to excite pity and contempt. Diet and exercise afford powerful means of averting the attacks of apoplexy. Men advanced in years, being obviously most subject to apoplexy, should rigorously observe a system of abstinence and bodily activity, and more particularly, if in the habit of devoting much time to literature. In fact, it is evident that if an individual in the decline of age, lead, on the one hand, a sedentary life with considerable exercise of the brain, and on the other, indulge inordinately in the pleasures of the table, he incurs the risk of an attack of apoplexy, in proportion as he may be predisposed to it. Many aged persons have been destroyed by this disease, in consequence of overloading the stomach, particularly in the evening. Portal remarks, that the attacks of apoplexy during the night were less frequent at Paris, when the habit of taking supper was abandoned. After meals it is proper to employ moderate exercise; and when this is impracticable, to substitute for it some amusement, whereby the drowsiness to which we are naturally disposed may be averted. Any mental commotion, which, by disturbing the functions of the stomach, may excite an injurious re-action upon the brain, should also, during the process of digestion, be avoided.

"Persons of a corpulent habit, with excess of strength, should subsist on vegetable substances, acid, and laxatives; and abstain from all excitant and nutritive food, and spirituous liquors. Ligature and tight clothing of every description, about the neck, are equally prejudicial. Persons have died of apoplexy, in consequence of wearing a tight cravat.

"The use of the cold bath is totally unsuited to the apoplectic constitution; and warm ones, as favouring a determination of blood to the brain, should be employed with the utmost precaution.

"Cold water to the head, dry friction, and irritants to the extremities, may, on the contrary, be prescribed with success. It is requisite to guard against atmospheric vicissitudes, and any undue elevation of temperature, however regular.

"Among the excretions, which it is important to regulate and promote, those of the intestines demand *particular* attention: accumulation in them are evidently capable of producing prejudicial reaction of the brain.

"Bleeding constitutes one of the principal preservative remedies.

Its employment, in the first instance, is always proper in persons who exhibit the precursory symptoms, and more particularly in those who exhibit such symptoms, in consequence of a suppressed discharge, as piles, bleeding of the nose, &c., or in aneurismal affections of the heart. In the event of cessation of the discharge of piles, this evacuation, which is always useful to those who are menaced with apoplexy, should be restored by the reiterated application of leeches to the seat of the complaint, and the employment of aloes, and the warm hip bath. An artificial determination to the seat of piles may, by these means, be advantageously excited, by averting the existing determination of blood to the brain. A case recorded by Lancisi, sufficiently proves the efficacy of bleeding in averting impending apoplexy. It relates to a man, aged 60, of a full and corpulent habit, and addicted to good living and sedentary pursuits, in whom the loss of some pounds of blood, within a short period, by bleeding at the nose, completely removed all the symptoms of a menaced attack of this disease.

“After a sufficient depletion by bleeding, a brisk purgative may be employed with great advantage. Their continued use establishes a point of irritation, beneficial as a diversion in the intestinal canal; and in patients who suffer from head-ache and other precursory symptoms of apoplexy, they should be occasionally repeated. Professor Pinel employs them in those cases with great success. The Bengal antibilious pill, on account of the copious evacuations they produce, and their effects in unloading congestion of the viscera, and determining to the rectum, are for this purpose preferable to any other remedy.

“Blisters, caustics, and setons, are likewise useful derivatives, especially when the predisposition is very strong, or when, on the cure of a cutaneous eruption or old drain, an attack of apoplexy is apprehended. These artificial discharges may also be very useful to women who, at the critical period of life, are menaced with an attack of apoplexy. Long sleep should be avoided by corpulent subjects. A hard bed, the head more elevated than the trunk, should be preferred. Long continued watching, particularly when spent in study, is injurious. If the head becomes heated, and the vision disturbed, it will be proper to rest for some time in a quiet state; and afterwards, abstain from application during several hours. In general, men, upon whom literary pursuits produce these effects, should relinquish them altogether. It is, indeed, difficult to interdict the pleasure of study at an age when the pale of enjoyment becomes so much circumscribed; but there remains no alternative. Study, in the horizontal posture, should be especially prohibited, since this situation greatly favours an impulse of blood to the brain.

“Bourbier, in his thesis, gives excellent advice to persons predisposed to apoplexy, on retiring from business, to use bodily exercise, in order to avert the disease. Experience has shewn that many have fallen victims to a sudden change from a life of business to one of inactivity and indulgence. This author also justly remarks, that the predisposition to apoplexy should be combated rather by

diet than by frequent blood-letting, except when the patient is really menaced by an attack. The effect of bleeding is temporary, and its frequent repetition becomes necessary. When the habit of losing blood is contracted, it cannot be discontinued without serious risk, while a judicious regimen is every moment operating, and its effects are the more certain as being more slow and gradual.

"To the means just indicated may be joined the habitual use of the fox-glove, the ordinary effect of which is, to reduce the action of the heart and arteries, and, consequently, to diminish the impetus of blood towards the head. This medicine is especially indicated when there exists any increase of action of the heart—a frequent cause of the disease which has formed the subject of this memoir."

From 20 to 30 drops of the saturated tincture of the leaves (carefully dried) may be taken twice a day.

When a slight preternatural determination of blood to the head exists in a person of an apoplectic constitution, the most trifling circumstance tending to increase the determination, will bring on a fit. We have lately met with four cases of the disease, one of which occurred during the time the patient was pulling on a tight boot; another occurred during the time of trotting a horse along a paved street (which the patient did by the advice of a physician); the third subject fell down at the time he was shaving the throat with his head inclined backwards; and the fourth was attacked at the time of relieving his bowels. All the circumstances in which these patients were engaged at the time the disease occurred, increased the determination of blood to the head. In all, the disease proved fatal, notwithstanding the most active means were promptly employed, as, copious abstraction of blood, stimulating lavemens, sinapisms to the feet, drastic purgatives, cold water to the head, blisters between the shoulders, &c. &c.

GALVANISM.—(*Dr. De Sanctis's letter, continued from p. 279.*) The only ill effect, if such it may be called, of the new proceeding, is the final deep oxydation of the plate; but of what consequence is this? Is it not better to employ a little more time in rubbing them with emery-paper, after the operation, than to lose so much more in reinforcing the pile to the annoyance of the nose and lungs of the assistants? Perhaps the piles, *cæteris paribus*, will be of shorter duration than before! Well; let it be so. You have only to make the plates thicker, and so much the more, that in a certain degree the greater the thickness, the more it tends to increase the force. As to the greater consumption of the acid, I shall not notice it, being a matter of no consideration, where drachms will be employed and not pounds, as in the common Cruikshank's troughs. And supposing the *expence* is in some degree increased, what comparison does it bear to the restoring of the life of a fellow-creature? Therefore I have thought proper to add to the apparatus a sponge, a drying cloth, some metallic wires, with moveable insulating glass tubes, a glass cylinder, of nearly the same dimensions of the pile, for the acid bath of the same; small bottles, containing water and acid, for applying it; some smaller ones, with glass caps, for holding certain ethereal and stimulating liquors; a gullet syringe,

small *box-bellows* of my own invention; some needles with *waxed silk* for arranging again the pile, if by accident it should break in using it; and for obtaining a light suddenly, and *fire* suddenly, at any season, without much trouble, even an *ignitor* may be added, and a riband and some lancets for bleeding, in case it should be necessary. The importance of all these precautions are well known to every one who has been called to give medical assistance in cases of suspended animation, as sometimes the lapse of time occurring between suspended animation and departed life amounts to only a few seconds. Mr. Massi and myself have found the *waxed silk* preferable to oiled, and more easily to be prepared. With regard to the *gullet syringe* and *box bellows*, I will make them a subject of a future communication. Meanwhile Mr. Bouvier, a skilful French engineer, has received my instructions for making them.

“Notwithstanding it contains a pile sufficiently strong, and all the mentioned apparatus, the *chest* will scarcely exceed a foot in length, and four or five inches in breadth and depth: so much have the improvements contributed to render this *chest* more portable to the medical assistant, and to contain in a smaller compass, not only the ancient instruments, but also the new ones for restoring suspended animation.

“Perhaps when the application of galvanism is better understood, the bellows may become useless in many cases, as the experiments, successfully repeated at Mr. Pettigrew’s, in presence of myself, and other friends of the science, have clearly proved the power of galvanism to be sufficient to restore even respiration.

“At the beginning, this letter was the same as that addressed to you in the twelfth number of the *Ape Italiana a Londra*; but having given up that Journal for the purpose of a closer application to more important objects, and particularly to complete the interesting work which you so happily began; you will see that it is going on farther. The subject, however, must be carried on still farther, and the unforeseen results of some new experiments may perhaps induce me to adopt again the first construction of the neck-lace pile, with dividing clothes, smaller than the plates, but on a much larger scale than yours. The very same experiments remove all doubt that the medical power of the pile is in proportion, not only of the number of plates, but even of the extent of the acting surfaces, as the augmentation of the acid has clearly confirmed the *polar condensations* to be not only the effect of the *heterogeneity* of the *pilar elements*, but even (and for the greatest part) of their chemical reaction.

43, King-street, Covent Garden.

(To be continued.)

STONE IN THE BLADDER.—In a late publication, entitled “Cases in Surgery,” by Mr. Kirby, the author avows his intention to revive the *high* operation for the stone in the bladder, on the first suitable opportunity that may be presented to him, from a conviction that this mode of removing calculi from the human bladder is much the safest, and that it has been relinquished only to make way for one requiring more dexterity and display. Mr. Carpue, an eminent surgeon of this metropolis, has become a convert to Mr. Kirby’s opinion, chiefly in consequence of having seen the high

operation performed in Paris. About two years ago, Mr. Carpue being desirous to know the state of surgery in France, visited Paris. The reception he met with from the *majority* of the medical practitioners, was highly flattering to him. The object of his journey being known to M. Moraud, of *Rue St. Honoré*, a respectable apothecary, that gentleman informed him that Dr. Souberbielle would perform the operation of lithotomy the following morning, on a gentleman aged 64, at the *Hotel d'Invalides*. Mr. Carpue accordingly attended the operation; of which he gives the following animated account :

"The patient, M. de Walville, entered the room with much composure, and ascended the table. Being placed as is usual in the operation for the stone, Dr Souberbielle, having introduced a staff, made an incision in the perinæum, and into the membranous part of the urethra; he then introduced a director into the groove of the staff, which he withdrew: he now passed along the director, (an instrument that had somewhat the form of a catheter,) which was held by an assistant. It is not possible for any one to conceive my astonishment; I could not comprehend for what purpose this was introduced. The director was removed, and the instrument was suffered to remain in the bladder. The ligatures were taken from the feet of the patient, who was placed in a very different position. The operator made an incision in the integuments and fat three or four inches in length above the pubis. I now perceived that Dr Souberbielle was about to perform the high operation. He proceeded with great coolness, and extracted a large stone, then another, another, and another; he now drew forth a large quantity of small calcareous particles: this rendered the operation tedious, which the patient bore with great courage. Baron Percy said, 'Dr Souberbielle, I think that you had better inject the bladder:' the doctor answered, 'there is no occasion, for I can feel every part of the bladder, and there is not a particle of calculus remaining.' The operation being finished, the patient was put to bed. We retired into the adjoining apartment. Baron Percy said it was usual for the Attendant-Surgeons, when they approved of an operation, to signify the same. On this he wrote the annexed paper, stating that Dr. Souberbeille had operated with great ability; that the stone consisted of variously sized particles, which, when collected, were about the size of a turkey's egg; and that the Professors and Doctors present, (the Surgeons in Paris rank with, and have the degree of Doctor,) were of opinion that the patient was in a state which afforded the greatest hopes of his recovery."

The patient speedily recovered, and several other patients who had been operated upon in the same manner, some of them under unfavourable circumstances as to age, &c., were soon effectually relieved from their sufferings by the high operation.

After deliberating on the advantages and disadvantages of the *high* operation, and the one resorted to in this country, termed the *lateral* operation, Mr Carpue concludes, that the former is, for many important reasons, entitled to a preference. The great objections to the *lateral* operation, he says, are "working in the dark with doubtful success, lacerating and dividing parts to such an extent, and in such

a manner, as often to produce fatal bleeding, and other serious consequences, the most common of which is wounding the rectum. The stone is not so readily discovered, and if it breaks, the particles are not so easily removed. If the stone be in a cyst, and situated above the prostate, it cannot so easily be found and extracted, or removed without danger." Thus to prejudice his readers in favour of the high operation, the dangers and inconveniences of the lateral operation are extravagantly magnified. Now, if one operation is more hazardous, more complex, or more painful than the other, we have no hesitation in stating, that one is the high operation.

At the Bristol Infirmary, we know that Mr Allard performed the lateral operation nearly eighty times; and in every case, it proved completely successful: and why? Because Mr. Allard attended to the subsequent management of the wound; and, not like some surgeons of the London Hospitals, leave the dressing of the wound to the care of inexperienced pupils. On this most cruel conduct we have animadverted in a former number; and Mr Carpue, in his history of the high operation, observes, "in the course of twenty years' practice, I have invariably found that the *after-treatment* of the patient is not of less importance to *his life* than the operation itself."

Mr Carpue, on referring to his old books on surgery, has discovered that the mode of operating, adopted by Dr Souberbielle, is the same as was employed by *Frère Côme, forty years ago*.

Mr Carpue acknowledges, "that the high operation cannot *well* be performed on a corpulent subject; that it is altogether out of the question when there is a thickening of the coats of the bladder, preventing its being raised above the pubis." On the other hand, it must be admitted, the lateral method cannot be resorted to where disease of the urethra and prostate gland prevents the passage of the staff, or where the stone is very large. In such cases, the high operation is the only one that can be safely adopted. Notwithstanding a catheter is left in the urethra, after the extraction of calculus by the high operation, the French surgeons introduce "a piece of soft linen, half an inch wide, and eight inches long, into the bladder, through the incised wound, one end touching the neck of the bladder, and the other hanging out, for the purpose of conveying, by capillary attraction, the urine from the bladder that may not pass off by the catheter." The pressure of the linen against the end of the catheter, one would suppose, by preventing the escape of the urine by that instrument, was more likely to prove hurtful than otherwise; and if the incised wound be properly dressed with adhesive plaster and bandages, the conveyance of the urine from the bladder by capillary attraction would be greatly impeded, if not prevented. This linen is kept in the bladder three days!! The old nurses and the patients suppose that it has some wonderful magic influence.

A correspondent in Paris informs us, that the reception Mr. Carpue experienced from the leading surgeons of Paris, was very far from being flattering, although he presented to them letters of introduction from Mr. Astley Cooper. One (M. Rous) condescended to speak to him

in the open hall of his house; and, after reading Mr. Cooper's letter of introduction, and asking him if he was not an Irishman, observed, "you will no doubt pick up much practical knowledge in Paris." He begged to be remembered to Mr. A. Cooper, and wished him a good morning. So much for the politeness of a French surgeon, and a behaviour flattering to an Englishman.

COW POX.—The publication in our forty-fifth number, of a distressing case of this disease, which terminated fatally, has induced Dr. Lucas, of Hatfield, who attended the infant, to publish the particulars. It appears by his statement, that the vaccine matter was obtained from an *unexceptionable* subject at the National Vaccine Establishment. On the eighth day, when all appeared to be going on most favourably, the vesicle was punctured for the purpose of testing two children, who had been vaccinated two years before, (would not small pox matter have been a better test, or rather, is it not the *only proper* test?) On the following morning the surrounding inflammation increased, and in the evening the child was affected with fever. Notwithstanding the application of cold lotions, the inflammation spread until "it successively covered the whole body, except the feet and upper part of the head." The legs then became edematous. The pulse continued very rapid, "never under thirteen strokes in five seconds." On "the eighteenth day the child died, with every appearance of mortification of the bowels." The inflammation, after travelling nearly all over the surface of the body, the doctor thinks, extended its route to the mucous membrane of the bowels. The infant took "*several* little boats of gruel, with great avidity, three days before it died," which the doctor thinks was "probably from a sense of internal heat."

That cow pox was the *exciting* cause of the disease which proved fatal, Dr. Lucas admits; "but," says he, "the violence of the inflammation depending rather on some *peculiar* constitutional irritability of the skin than any virulent property of the vaccine fluid, it is to be hoped that it will not operate as a check upon the practice of vaccination." That a morbid degree of irritability of the skin favoured the progress of inflammation, is not improbable; but the inflammation was that *peculiar* kind which is *always* excited by vaccine matter, and we firmly believe by nothing else. Now had small pox matter been employed, would not the result have been very different? Our experience, which has been very considerable in this disease, disposes us to attribute the mischief to the puncturing of the vesicle. The irritation that ensued may be considered a proof of an absorption of lymph; and the second absorption *uniformly* excites more constitutional disturbance, and is followed by more obstinate inflammation than the first. It appears strange to us that when the doctor visited the child in the evening, when he says he found it affected with fever, that he did not think it necessary to examine the *punctured* arm. Might not an immediate application to the part have prevented an extension of the inflammation? The doctor inquires, "Would it not, in similar cases, be *safer* practice to abstain from *all* external applications, allowing the cutaneous affection to spend itself, unchecked, upon the surface, and using only

the most diligent means to subdue the inflammatory excitement of the system?" We beg to ask the doctor if it would not have been good practice to have unloaded the sanguiferous system by application of leeches, and thereby produce a state of system which would not favour inflammatory action? If the system had been so reduced, would not the external applications of a cold lotion have succeeded in checking the progress of inflammation? Did not the drowsiness of the patient indicate a plethoric state of the system? If the unfortunate result be solely attributable to some morbid state of the constitution, it shews the necessity of a preparatory treatment, which the advocates for vaccination ridicule. Mercurial purgatives, and the topical application of mercurial ointment, we have never found to fail in subduing vaccine inflammation.

The reports of vaccination from the Continent are very contradictory. In some parts of Germany it has fallen into disrepute. From Denmark, where the practice is enforced by authority, the accounts of its preventive powers against small pox are exceedingly favourable. In Copenhagen, between the years 1752 and 1762, the small pox carried off 2644 persons; in the next ten years 2116. From 1772 to 1782, 2233; and from 1782 to 1792, 2735. In 1802 cow pox was introduced, and from that time to 1818, 158 persons died of small pox, since which not a single case of small pox has occurred in the dominions of the King of Denmark. That proper attention was not paid, by many surgeons, to the period of taking lymph, for communicating the disease for some time after the supposed preventive power of vaccination against small pox contagion was made known in this country, will not admit of a doubt, and to this circumstance many failures are to be attributed. About fifteen years ago, a surgeon to a dispensary applied to us for vaccine matter. We told him that the disease was too far advanced, and, besides, that secondary inflammation had taken place, which had far advanced to suppuration. The surgeon's patients, however, had become so clamorous in consequence of his having frequently deferred the operation, that he obstinately insisted upon taking some of the matter, and with it he inoculated several children. It of course afforded no security against small pox.

WATERY HEAD.—(*Hydrocephalus*.)—Mr. Heineken, a medical practitioner of Bow, in Middlesex, has published two cases of indisposition, termed by him, hydrocephalus, which terminated favourably under his care.—The patients were both females, one aged nine years and the other only two years. We select the case of the latter, on account of its more clearly elucidating his mode of treatment.

"Mary Anne Murrell, the daughter of labouring parents, two years of age, and of healthy appearance. On the 20th of June I found her in a state of great irritability and uneasiness; evidently suffering, but unable to say from what cause; when lying in bed wishing to sit up, and when sitting up desiring immediately to return to bed; very cross; frequently starting and crying out in her sleep, and dozing continually: she had much fever; an unpleasant vapid expression about the eyes; and the motions were the most

offensive that I ever remember *seeing*. For some time she was observed to have been unwell, lolling her head about, and complaining of being sleepy and tired; and she had lost an elder sister from (I have little doubt) the same complaint. I ordered her two grains of calomel, with one of antimony four times daily; the head to be shaved, and kept continually wet; four leeches to the temples; and on the following morning a blister to the nape of the neck. On the 23d she was much the same, and four more leeches were applied.

"Between this and the 30th she fluctuated almost daily, but upon the whole might be considered improving; and as the alvine evacuations were frequent and rather more healthy, the calomel was given three times in the day only. From this period the improving state of the stomach and the decline of the disease may be dated, and she is now enjoying good health. The *system* was not *at all* affected by the mercury."

Few practitioners of experience will agree with Mr. Heineken, in pronouncing the complaint of Mary Ann Murrell, hydrocephalus. Had he called to his assistance Dr. Curry, he would have referred the affection of the head and bowels to a disordered state of the liver, and the recovery of the patient he would have attributed to the operation of the calomel, in "*chologueing*" the biliary duct. This *great* man considers calomel an infallible test of hepatic derangement; and when under its influence a patient's health improves, he considers the result to be a certain proof of the correctness of his opinion, or rather his splendid hepatic system of medicine.—Dr. Yeates, however, so far differs with the learned Dr. Curry, that he regards the salutary effects of mercury, when the head is disordered, an indisputable evidence that the sufferings of the patient arose from an effusion of water in the ventricles of the brain. The late Dr. Musgrave would have denominated the complaint of Mary Ann Murrell the spurious worm fever, arising from abstraction of the mesenteric gland, and disordered state of the intestinal canal; and that the complaint was of this nature, we are much inclined to believe. This is confirmed in some measure by the effects of the medicine; for as soon as it operated briskly on the bowels, the symptoms began to subside, and the general health to improve. We cannot agree with Mr. Heineken, in supposing that a patient in this climate can take eight grains of calomel for ten days, without "at all affecting the system;" because the child was not salivated, are we to suppose that the system was not affected by the mercury? If it was not, how did it act in removing the water which he supposed was effused in the head?

HYDROPHOBIA.—A Mr. Greening, of Aldersgate-street, has published the particulars of a case of this disease, which terminated fatally, under the care of "Mr. Price, a Surgeon, of Bliston, and his Apprentice, John Greening." The patient, Master Bullock, was only five years of age. The parts about the temples were much lacerated by the dog; not only the muscles, but even the *membrane* covering the bone, were "ripped" off; "one wound penetrated through the eye-lid, into the back part of the orbit of the right eye." In addition to these, there were many more wounds on the arms, face, &c. &c.

The wounds were too extensive to admit of excision of the parts.—Mr. Price, or his Apprentice, Master Greening, “well washed the wounds with a mixture of water and caustic alkali, after which the parts were dressed with a *strong* solution of lunar caustic, *sufficiently thin* to penetrate the smaller interstices of the wounds;” a clyster and a fever medicine were then administered. On the following day, the eschars, produced by the caustic applications, were very considerable; they were accordingly poulticed; the poor boy, he says, spent a restless night. How could it have been otherwise, after a *strong* solution of lunar caustic was introduced into the interstices of the wounds, one of which penetrated into the posterior part of the orbit of the eye, and in others the bone was bare?

The next day, an opening medicine was administered, the operation of which quieted the system. On the following day, a scruple of mercurial ointment was ordered to be rubbed into each thigh daily. The eschars sloughed off favourably, and the discharge was healthy. The mercurial friction and fever medicine were continued for fourteen days, when the mouth and bowels were affected by the mercury. Symptoms of hydrophobia now appeared, which rapidly increased, and in three days terminated in death. This case is valuable, inasmuch as it shews that salivation, which has been so much recommended by some medical writers as a certain means of curing the disease, was so far from proving beneficial, that it clearly accelerated its progress. In the first instance, we think the poor boy’s sufferings would have been considerably less had laudanum been administered.

OBSTINATE CONSTIPATION.—The following very serious case of constipation, in which quicksilver in a metallic state was advantageously administered, occurred in the practice of Mr. Malcolm, an eminent Surgeon, of Perth.—“John Rose, aged 26, was taken ill on Thursday, the 17th of June, with violent pains in the bowels, attended with constipation; he applied to an Apothecary, who gave him a dose of castor oil, which was immediately ejected; an ounce of Epsom salt was then exhibited, which was also thrown up. In the evening Surgeon Monteith saw him, who found the belly much tumified. Mr. M. abstracted blood from a vein, to the extent of two pounds, and prescribed small doses of calomel, with a solution of the Epsom salt, castor oil, and other purgatives. He likewise ordered lavemens. The medicines were for the most part vomited, and the lavemens did not succeed in bringing away fæces. This course was persevered in till the morning of the 22d, when a midwife of her own accord gave him a lavement of tobacco, (made by boiling half an ounce of tobacco in half a pint of water;) this was succeeded by excessive faintness and sickness, but no fæcial discharge. In the evening Mr. Malcolm saw the patient with Mr. Monteith. The belly was very hard and distended, with great anxiety of countenance, a pulse scarcely perceptible; the extremities cold, clammy perspirations, almost incessant vomiting, and very distressing hiccup.

Two pounds of quicksilver were ordered to be swallowed, and the following clyster to be injected. Take of venice turpentine, three

drachms. Starch clyster half a pound. Mix the venice turpentine with the yolk of an egg, and then add gradually the starch clyster. On the next day, he had an evacuation from the bowels, which afforded great relief, the pulse 100. Hiccup continued, but the vomiting had ceased.

A clyster of half a pint of infusion of senna was ordered to be injected, and a little beef tea to be taken by way of nourishment. In the evening he had many foetid evacuations, the hiccup left him, and he felt considerably relieved on the 24th. The bowels were sufficiently open, and the pulse full and strong; the belly a little hard, no appearance of the quicksilver; an ounce of castor oil was administered, and beef tea and whey were directed to be taken at intervals. In the evening, the quicksilver not having passed off, the lower part of the trunk was a little raised, that the quicksilver might pass the arch of the colon, where it was supposed to be lodged. About two hours afterwards, nearly half the quantity of quicksilver was evacuated, and the following morning four ounces more. The remainder escaped at different times with the fæces. He complained of soreness of the mouth, which Mr. Malcolm attributed to the calomel he had taken under the care of Mr. Monteith. He ordered a drachm of precipitated sulphur to be taken, and a solution of Epsom salt; two days afterwards he was pronounced well.

There can be little doubt that the quicksilver was the principal agent in removing the cause of the constipation, which was probably "introsusception." Of the auxiliary remedies, the abstraction of blood, by keeping down inflammation, and by quieting the system, had a considerable share in the cure. The case is a very important one, as shewing, not only the importance of quicksilver in a metallic state, in obstinate constipation, (a much neglected remedy in such cases), but of the propriety of exhibiting it to the extent of two pounds, instead of an ounce or two, as is the practice with some physicians.

MEDICAL EXCURSION ON THE CONTINENT, (*Continued from page 288*).—On my return through Rouen, I was much pleased with the appearance of the principal hospital of the city. Remarkable cleanliness and order pervade these establishments, all of which are under the management of the government, and are maintained by the appropriation of certain taxes, levied on different articles of provision, and collected at the several entrances to the cities. These receiving houses are called *barrieres*, similar to our turnpike gate. Nothing like our road-duties is collected in France; but travellers, whose trunks or baskets exceed a certain size, are liable to be overhauled for the duties on grapes, wine, meat, cider, &c. There are two considerable hospitals in Rouen; the one, *L'Hopital des Valides*, of considerable extent, partakes of the character of our work-houses, receiving all the paupers of the department, who may be desirous of admission; or, in other words, who are not in a condition to maintain themselves. All chronic and incurable patients are deposited there; maniacal, venereal, scrophulous, cancerous, cutaneous, &c., which are excluded from the other, called *La Madeleine*, for patients labouring under acute diseases; and, in fact, all

such as do not come within the object of the "Valides," or work-house. All cases of accident, or requiring surgical operation, are also brought hither. La Madelaine is a handsome building, occupying three sides of a square, at the bottom of the Fauxbourg Cauchoise, at the extremity of the town, and delightfully situated in respect to air and prospect. The area in front of the building is enclosed by magnificent iron gates. The Fauxbourg Cauchoise is a handsome broad street, leading down to it; and it forms a part of a plan to continue this onwards, for the space of a mile, into the town, taking down all the intervening buildings, after the manner of our Carlton House improvements. In this case, it is calculated, that so direct will be the line from the hospital to the cathedral, also called La Madelaine, or Nôtre Dame, that, by the aid of a telescope, a person in the wards may distinguish the minister officiating at the altar. This hospital is of great antiquity, and was originally, in common with many others, a part of a monastery attached to the cathedral. Hence its name La Madelaine, which was, in course of time, changed to Hotel Dieu; but, at the period of the revolution, (so fatal to the saints, and to the churches), these sacred appellations were laid on the shelf; and now, on the re-establishment of the pious Louis, are again to be found in the hospital papers. The towns-people know it more generally by the title of Hopital Generale. The nurses belong to a religious order (la Charité) attached to the cathedral, as far back as history can trace,—an order of females who take a vow to lead a monastic life, to devote themselves to acts of charity, and to a voluntary attendance on the sick; for which, I believe, they receive no salary, but are supported and clothed, as is usual in convents. The several laborious duties of this situation are performed with a religious and scrupulous exactness, and in a manner very different from what is produced from the gin-drinking nurses of this country, who work for hire, and cannot move without a bribe, from the unfortunate patient. In France, the occupation is taken up on principle, and from high religious feelings; and although we cannot expect to find, in this class of society, highly cultivated minds, yet the respectability of appearance, the cleanliness, the steadiness of deportment of these Sœurs de la charité, and their unimpeachable conduct, commands our admiration of the system. This hospital has, at various times, been renovated; at one time it was in contact with the cathedral, at another, the patients were removed to another house in the same street, from whence they were dislodged by a general conflagration of that part of the city. During the minority of Louis XIV., when the plague raged for several years in Rouen, and carried off a vast proportion of the population, two houses for the reception of convalescents were erected on the present site of the hospital. It was about this time, when the alms of the faithful, notwithstanding the exhortations of the priesthood, and their denunciation of divine vengeance, were inadequate to the erections required, that Louis levied the tax on provisions for the maintenance of the sick poor. After the conflagration of the old hospital, these pest-houses were, by various alterations and additions, fashioned into their present form. In examining the internal organization of this

excellent institution, I could not but reflect, how much superior to us were the French, in what concerns the election of the medical officers, and the professors of public instruction; with them a competition of merit decides the eligibility of a candidate. Although the government has the appointment and payment of the salaries, yet it does not appear that any influence is exerted in favour of the candidate, and the question of merit alone has weight; take a contrary example from this enlightened country. What is it gives a physician in London a claim to the highest medical honour, as far as title can bestow them?—a residence at an English university, without a single proof of medical knowledge.

When a vacancy occurs in a French hospital, the event is advertised, and competitors are invited to put in their claims; a strict and solemn examination takes place; when he who proves himself to possess the greatest attainments, is placed in the situation. Here a man's only title to so high an appointment, is an apprenticeship with one of the surgeons of the hospital!! By some unaccountable means, the governors have virtually suffered themselves to be juggled out of the power of electing; for such is the interest possessed by an union of force among the medical departments, that they have been enabled to carry their point, almost invariably to the exclusion of all other candidates, whatever may be their merit. This unjust monopoly effectually damps the ardour of the students, whom the ambition of obtaining the rank of hospital surgeon might have stimulated to exertions the most beneficial to society. Thus it is with the situation of the resident surgeon in London; the pupil pays a premium for the privilege, which, in France, is the reward of merit. The house surgeon (*Chirurgien Interne*) of a French hospital, must have given proofs of assiduity and superior attainments, before he can be admitted. Hence a constant spirit of emulation is kept up among the students. The medicines supplied to the hospitals, whether of Paris, or of the Departments, are procured from a splendid establishment in Paris, entitled, "*Pharmacie Centrale*," the whole expence of which is defrayed by government. I had an opportunity of examining the interior of this edifice, and of admiring the excellence of its plan, and the orderly arrangements of its several departments. Although every thing, as may be supposed, is conducted on a very large scale, yet cleanliness so marks its character, that scarcely a spot is to be seen on the chemical and pharmaceutical utensils, while not in use. All the medicines are of the first quality. This laboratory then becomes an excellent school for the operations of pharmaceutical chemistry.

DROPSY.—Dr. Rehmann, Counsellor of State, and Physician to the Emperor of Russia, has effected some extraordinary cures of dropsy, by a decoction of woolly stinking horehound (*ballota lanata*.) He was induced to give a trial, on the warm recommendation of Dr. Schilling, an eminent Physician of Siberia. The first trial Dr. Rehmann made of this remedy, was on a very weak subject, who within a short time had been attacked with putrid fever, afterwards with obstinate ague, and lastly, with *general dropsy*. All the diuretic medicines in common use, as squills, fox-glove, &c. combined with different tonics,

had been for a long time administered, without success. The patient was in a state of alarming debility, when the Doctor had recourse to the woolly stinking horehound. "To excite a favourable reaction, he gave alternately with this diuretic, thirty drops of sulphuric ether. On the third, the excretion of urine was evidently increased, and continued until all the symptoms of dropsy disappeared. The treatment was concluded by the exhibition of the Peruvian bark and other bitters. The patient was under his observation for six months, and although she was affected in the interval with a catarrh, no signs of a recurrence of dropsy appeared. The Doctor has since learnt that she enjoys good health. In another case of dropsy of the belly, of about four months standing, the remedy produced the same effect. It has only been in cases of dropsy, attended with induration of the liver, or some other organ, that it has failed to restore the patients to health; but even in those, by increasing the secretion of urine, it has evidently prolonged life, and rendered it more tolerable.—The decoction was made by boiling two ounces of the plant, (grossly powdered,) in two pints of water, till reduced to one. To the strained liquor half an ounce of white canella was added. Of this mixture a wine-glass full was administered every two or three hours. The plant should be collected when its stalks, leaves, and flowers are in full vigour.

PULMONARY CONSUMPTION.—In the first number of a new Journal of Science, published in America, Dr. Silliman, the editor, has inserted a case of pulmonary consumption, in which the free exhibition of oxygen proved successful. The patient, a young lady, he says, was apparently in the last stage of the disease, with symptoms of an effusion of water in the chest. The oxygen was obtained from the nitrate of potass, because this article could be readily obtained, where the patient resided, and because the extrication of the gas might be easily affected by a common fire. The gas had of course a variable mixture of nitrogen, and the Doctor thinks, on an average, the proportion was 80 of oxygen, to 20 or 30 of nitrogen. From the first inhalation of this compound gas, the difficulty of breathing and other oppressive affections were greatly relieved; the young lady grew rapidly better, and in a few weeks entirely recovered her health.—A respectable Physician, conversant with the case, states that the inhaling of oxygen relieved the difficulty of breathing, increased the operation of diuretics, and has affected her cure. In this case the Doctor admits that the difficulty of breathing, &c. arose either from an effusion of water in the cavity of the chest, or in the substance of the lungs; and it does not appear that the patient was affected with any symptom indicative of structural disease of those organs. Dr. Silliman, after recommending the trial of oxygen in complaints of the lungs, observes, "It is more than probable that the nitrous oxide," (which Dr. Thornton has lately introduced in to his Lectures on Popular Anatomy, &c. merely as a subject of merriment and wonder,) "if properly diluted and judiciously applied, might be productive of good effects in a variety of diseases."

TUMEFACATION OF THE GLAND OF THE BREAST.—Professor Hallé, in the new Journal of medicine, states that he has

found the following poultice very beneficial in dispersing indurated tumours of the female breast. Mix linseed meal with the pulp of the carrot root, and add as much of the juice of the turnip as may be necessary to soften it—whilst warm, add a little lard to prevent its becoming dry, or adhering to the skin; then spread it on linen, and cover the surface with half an ounce of fresh hemlock powder, mingle it with the surface, and apply it whilst warm. He directs it to be renewed every six hours—when there is diseased structure, the Professor says, no other benefit can be expected from it than mitigation of pain. For internal use he prefers the powdered hemlock leaves to the extract. He always gives it in progressive doses, commencing with eight grains, and increasing the quantity one grain, till it produces giddiness. He then diminishes the dose two grains, and which he continues fifteen days, when he again assumes the increasing progression, and this method he follows till the quantity be considerable. He has found an addition of camphor to hemlock, to prevent its usual effects on the brain, namely, giddiness, drowsiness, &c. The dose of eight grains of hemlock powder, is, in our opinion, much too great to commence with. If the powder be good, half that dose will disorder the head and stomach. Three grains of the recently powdered leaves is a full dose for a patient who has not been accustomed to take it.

COW-POX.—It was not till the article on vaccination, which appears in our present number, was printed, that we met with the following “Observations relative to Vaccination,” in the last number of the London Medical and Physical Journal.

“In the Monthly Gazette of Health for the present month, there is the following passage: ‘Small-pox continues to prevail throughout the island, and the contagion not being resisted by subjects who have gone through vaccination to the perfect satisfaction of medical men who communicated the disease, instances of failure have in every county so multiplied, that they no longer excite attention. *The demand for cow-pox matter at the National Vaccine Institution has in consequence nearly ceased.*’

“Lest these positive assertions should be credited by any one, the Board of the National Vaccine Establishment have authorized us to state, that the number of persons vaccinated during the last eight months, from January to September, at their ordinary stations alone, amount to 5,996; and the number of charges of vaccine lymph, which were distributed to the public during the same period, were 34,597; which is a considerable augmentation, instead of a decrease, of the business of the establishment.

“We have the *same* authority for assuring the profession, that, notwithstanding the strange opposition which is still persevered in, the practice of vaccination *steadily* gains ground throughout the British dominions.”

Thus to establish a charge of falsehood against us, the *honourable* Apothecary, and *right honourable* Physician of the National Vaccine Institution, (for from the fountain head the *authority* was of course received,) go so far back as January last for evidence!! The correspondent, on whose “*authority* the assertion was made, that the

7 application for vaccine matter had nearly ceased, is a gentleman whom we know to be incapable of making a false assertion, and whom we likewise know to be more disposed to favour vaccination than otherwise—but when the head servants of the National Vaccine Institution dare to assert that the “practice of vaccination *steadily* gains ground throughout the British dominions,” our only astonishment is, that the editors of a Journal, who profess to circulate facts, should insert such a barefaced falsehood. “No authority,” however great, should induce them to insert a statement which they know to be erroneous. The declaration that vaccination is *steadily* gaining ground throughout the British dominions, they must be aware that every practitioner in this country must know to be erroneous. The fact is, that so little is the confidence of the public in its preventive powers against small-pox contagion, that if it had not been for the most urgent entreaties of medical gentlemen in general, (who from motives highly creditable to them as Christians, were anxious that it should be put to the test of reiterated experience,) it would long ere this have been consigned, as Dr. Pew emphatically observes, “to the tomb of *all* the Capulets.” In their *next* communication on vaccination, we advise these faithful servants of the *National Vaccine Institution*, to give some plausible reason why Dr. George Pearson has relinquished vaccination, after having taken more pains to pre-
- 1 - judice the public in its favour than any other friend to the practice?

On the subject of vaccination, we have been studiously impartial; and, we flatter ourselves, our readers will give us credit for the truth of this declaration. We repeat that our only object, in conducting this work, is to communicate *facts*, and such information that is likely to prove useful to the public; and in doing this, our medical readers must be aware that we act in direct opposition to our own interest, and that no “authority” has induced us to deviate from the path of rectitude and honour. The *medical* officers of the *National Vaccine Institution* should be aware, that the most *important* duty they have to perform to the nation, is making faithful representation of the results of their experiments, and not to favour the views of a set of unprincipled men, who are making a trade of it.

HYSTERIC FITS.—A Dr. Mahon, in a late communication on the hysteric passion, compares the disorder to insanity, arising from a disordered state of the digestive organ, *peculiar to civilized life* and like it shews the results of an inordinate susceptibility of the brain to impressions from the rest of the system. In his practice, he has observed that hysteric fits generally occur in those of *full habits*, or at least that they *first occur* in that state of the system; but like *all* the consequences of impressions on the brain, they are very likely to happen subsequently from what is commonly, though *vaguely* termed *habit*, in a totally different state of the constitution, and from very trivial causes; but he is convinced that it never happens in consequence of debility of the system; for females, says he, sinking under depletion, are hardly ever affected with hysteric symptoms. The following case induced the Doctor, “early in his *practical* career,” to relinquish the stimulating plan of treatment,

inculcated by Lecturers, and recommended by medical writers on the subject :

"I was called to visit a patient, an unmarried woman, 22 years of age, and of a spare habit of body, who had been about an hour in a severe hysterical paroxysm. I learned from the attendants, that she had complained of pain about the loins and hypogastric regions for two or three weeks previously ; that menstruation had been effected irregularly, and somewhat profusely, for four or five months past; and that, within the last eight days, she had before experienced three severe fits of hysteria, each of which continued four or five hours. On passing my hand over the abdomen, with a view of ascertaining if there were any tension or swelling, I was somewhat surprised to feel a violent throbbing about the epigastrium, in the situation of the cœliac artery. This furnished an indication, which I immediately followed, and abstracted twelve ounces of blood. In five minutes the patient became perfectly sensible, and she experienced no return of the convulsions. Blood-letting and purging were afterwards employed."

The doctor adds, The measures on which he places most reliance are, bleeding, cold air, cold drinks, and cold applications to the abdomen. Sometimes he orders "a vessel of cold water to be dashed over the bowels." The effects of the latter he has often found "*almost* surprizing: the patient utters a scream, starts up, and looks about with astonishment, like a person suddenly roused from sleep, enquiring what is the matter, and the cause of so many persons being about her."

In cases in which the doctor has not employed bloodletting, and where the application of cold water has produced only temporary relief, he has given an emetic of powdered ipecacuan root, followed by nauseating doses of the same medicine, with the most advantageous result. The doctor thinks it of importance to observe, "that in this, and in other cases, where the functions of the brain are much disturbed, ipecacuan, not emetic tartar, sulphate of zinc, &c., should be employed. It is common, says he, to find the latter substances used, from the difficulty with which vomiting is then excited; but this practice he considers highly deleterious, causing *severe* injury to the stomach, from the large quantities of those substances often required ; and of this he has witnessed *several* instances. This danger he has not found to attend the use of ipecacuan, and when it fails to excite vomiting, he "strongly advises that the attempt to cause it should be desisted from." With respect to opium, so frequently prescribed in hysterical affections, the doctor states, "he has rarely employed it in the treatment of the fit, and only after it has subsided, with the view of procuring sleep, and quieting the system ; and even with this intention, he has almost confined its use to patients of a weak and a spare habit of body, or when the complaint is habitual, or has been immediately caused by some sudden mental emotion." The treatment recommended by the doctor, to be adopted in cases of hysterical fits, is by no means new, as may be seen by the following extract from the Medical Guide, published eight years ago: "If the patient be of a plethoric habit, or if the functions of the brain be

disturbed in consequence of a preternatural determination of blood to the head, it will be proper to take from eight to ten ounces of blood from the arm, and to unload the intestines by an active aperient." Surely Dr. Mahon does not suppose that any apothecary could be so grossly ignorant as to have recourse to stimulants in a case of hysterical fits occurring in a plethoric habit. As to the application of cold water, the treatment is coeval with the disease. The doctor's observations on the employment of ipecacuan, and on the effects of emetic tartar, are too puerile to merit any remark from us. Even with our non-medical readers, they cannot fail to excite a smile of contempt. The doctor announces his intention of publishing a series of essays on the diseases incident to females, but he is apprehensive, a considerable period will elapse before they appear. After the specimen the learned doctor has given us of his knowledge of the "operative effects" of ipecacuan, &c., the delay will not be much regretted, at least by the medical profession, although he has ascertained "that serious injury is daily effected in hysterical affections by the means in vulgar use." If, by vulgar practice, the doctor means rubbing the temples, violently slapping the palms of the hands, stimulating the nostrils by volatile salt, forcing open the mouth, and pouring into it a liquid when the patient has no power of swallowing, shaking the body, and other officious treatment, we perfectly agree with him that much mischief is done by it. The hysterical fit, like the epileptic, is an operation of nature, to discharge from the brain superabundant nervous fluid, and the best practice is to place the subject on a soft bed, and to take care that during the time of being convulsed, she does not injure herself. If the system of blood-vessels be overloaded, bleeding may prove useful, and also cold water, as an application to the nervous system, which will assist nature in her curative efforts.

POISONING BY ARSENIC.—Alexander Macleod, *esquire* and *surgeon*, of North Uist, has communicated to the profession, through the medium of a periodical work, "cases where arsenic was accidentally swallowed by three maiden servants, and in which the poisonous action was succeeded by singular nervous affection," in the subduing of which, his superior skill and judgment were successfully exercised to the astonishment of Mrs Macdonald, the mistress of the three said maids.—We shall give the 'squire's narrative of the case in his own words: "On my arrival, Mrs. M. informed me, that about four o'clock the preceding evening, Marion Mylis observed a brown substance, about the size of a walnut, on the lobby floor, which she took up, and supposing it to be brown sugar, she instantly tasted it, and carried it where Kitty Macintyre and Ann Murray were spinning. She gave to each a portion of the *sweetmeat* she had found, and, accordingly, the three eat *all* she had picked up. They were soon after seized with violent retching, vomiting, and excruciating pain in the region of the stomach. On their situation being made known to Mrs. Macdonald, she concluded that what they had swallowed, was of a poisonous quality, and, therefore, she gave them large and repeated draughts of camomile tea, which was continued till they began to vomit blood. She then made them

drink a quantity of warm milk, and gave forty drops of laudanum to each. They continued in great distress all the evening, and during the night, complaining of heat and excruciating pain in the chest and throat, accompanied with a sense of stricture in the latter, with difficulty of swallowing, together with violent purging and discharge of blood downwards. At bed-time, Mrs. Macdonald gave them another dose of laudanum. They got some respite during the night, and on my arrival at nine o'clock in the forenoon, I found them much easier, but complaining of pain in the chest, accompanied by heat and lancinating pain in the throat, and by profuse perspiration and general debility. They had great thirst, and complained of pain in their teeth. I also observed purple blotches (*petechiæ*) on the skin of their chests and necks. I gave each of them a dose of castor oil, and ordered them to drink freely of warm milk or barley water. Towards evening, perceiving symptoms indicative of inflammation of the stomach of Marion Mylis, and her pulse being 104, and strong, I took eight ounces of blood from her arm, by which her pulse was reduced to ninety-four, and she seemed to be much relieved. I ordered them to take, *every hour*, a mixture of carbonate of potass *puriss**, and sublimed sulphur, *which was continued so long as they had the power of swallowing*. The following day they all got out of bed, and found their complaints mitigated, but not removed. The *physic* given them the preceding evening operated during the night. *I ordered each of them twelve grains of the sulphuret of potass, every two hours, in addition to the mixture of sulphur and potass prescribed the preceding day, and the physic to be repeated at night; also to continue taking the warm milk, which they drank in great quantity.* Between the hours of twelve and one o'clock, all their former symptoms increased, as vomiting, &c., together with inflammation and swelling internally and externally at the root of the tongue. About three o'clock, Ann Murray lost the power of speech and swallowing, and shortly after her jaws became locked, accompanied by *convulsive* spasms over the rest of the body." The others were soon afterwards affected in a similar manner, except that Kitty Macintyre could move her jaws. In this state they continued all the night. The following day, Mr. Donald Macqueen, surgeon of South Uist, accompanied me; four ounces of blood were taken from the jugular vein of Ann Murray, a large blister was applied to the pit of the stomach, another below the chin, and a strong lavement was administered: afterwards, being able to move her jaws, the *physic* and sulphuret of potass were repeated. At twelve o'clock, we ordered her face to be sprinkled with cold water, which had the effect of rousing her out of her comatous state. She complained of violent head-ache, and heat, and pain in *her* throat. The medicines were continued, and the feet immersed in warm

* We do not know what the learned 'squire and surgeon means by this term. Surely he cannot suppose that *pure* potass and carbonate of potass are the same article. *Pure* potass is a most powerful caustic, and therefore highly improper to be administered in such a case.

water; after which she continued to revive. The other two were subjected to a similar treatment, which was attended with the same beneficial effects." In the evening, Ann Murray and Kitty Macintyre were nearly at the same time seized with violent head-ache, and other symptoms indicative of approaching inflammation. Their pulses being very feeble, they did not venture to take any more blood; a dose of an aperient salt was administered to each; a large blister applied to the nape of the neck of each, and their feet were reimmersed in warm water. These remedies affording no benefit, the effusion of cold water was employed, by pouring it first over the head of Kitty Macintyre several times, and kept, at the same time, a towel dipped in cold water to her head. The good effects of this treatment was almost instantaneous; she recognized all the people in the room, and became calm and sensible; she complained only of a giddiness in her head, and general langour. She shortly afterwards fell asleep, and on awaking, she was quite composed. The same treatment succeeded with Ann Murray and Marion Mylis, and was continued some days, together "with some doses of physic." From this time they gradually recovered strength, and are now (three months after the accident) in good health." Some more of the supposed sweet-meat being found, 'Squire Macleod, being unacquainted with analytical chemistry, got a friend to examine it, who reported that it was strongly impregnated with arsenic. An apothecary's apprentice, on hearing this case read, inquired why 'Squire Macleod administered the carbonate of potass, sublimed sulphur, and the sulphuret of sulphur; two days after the arsenic was taken into the stomach, and particularly after the patients had taken so freely of camomile tea, and other diluents, and after having so frequently vomited, till even blood was brought up. A chemist who was present, replied, that the 'squire's object was no doubt to decompose the arsenic, and render it inert. What! observed the young apothecary, did the 'squire suppose that any portion of the arsenic remained in the stomach or intestines so long as twenty-four hours,—and that too, after taking so much camomile tea, and milk, and after vomiting till the mucus of the stomach must have been entirely removed? If that was his idea, said he emphatically, he is more entitled to the honorary distinction of 'squire than that of surgeon. To me, Sir, (he continued) it appears, that at the time the 'squire first saw the patients, their complaint was inflammation of the stomach, brought on by arsenic; but the arsenic, at that time, had nothing more to do with the case, than if it had been brought on by any other means. The exciting cause was not then acting, and, therefore, I do conceive that the mixture of sulphuret of potass, carbonate of potass, and sulphur, applied to an inflamed stomach, must tend to keep up inflammation. But surely, observed the apothecary's apprentice, the 'squire did not give it with the view of decomposing the arsenic, for he continued the medicine for some days; and he could not suppose that any portion of arsenic remained in the stomach so long. The gentlemen present, many of whom were able physicians and surgeons, acquiesced in opinion with the apothecary's apprentice, and attribute the

recovery to the judicious treatment adopted, in the first instance, by Mrs. Macdonald. In a case very similar to those related by *Squire* Macleod, Dr Marcet, who found the patient had vomited, and that no arsenic remained behind, treated the affection of the stomach, on the suggestion of surgeon Want, as inflammation of that organ; and copious bleeding, with medicines calculated to allay irritation, almost immediately succeeded in removing the effects of the poison. *Squire* Macleod, we presume, assuming the title of esquire, follows the example of some of our leading surgeons, whose only claim, as we can make out, is, being the son of a vender of quack medicines, the eldest son of a hair dresser, or the second son of a taylor. When men assume titles to which they have no pretension, the inference is, that their intellects are weak. Certain surgeons of London, styling themselves esquires, in the title pages of their works, to which they have no pretension, remind us of the old fable of the jackdaw who decorated himself with the feathers of the peacock. Mr Abernethy, speaking of the members of a medical society in London, observed to the secretary, Here are more *'squires* among us than surgeons.

TOPICAL BLEEDING.—Sirs, It always gives me pleasure either to learn, or to communicate, any thing which can simplify the art of medicine in either of its branches; and I was much pleased with the notice given in your last number, of a mode of practice in which I did not know that I had an associate. I allude to the method adopted by the Birmingham surgeons, of applying cupping-glasses over the bites of leeches. I have for some time adopted this practice myself, and for the following reasons:

The painful application of the scarification, of which the timid have frequently a dread, is avoided. The scars which this instrument leaves behind, are also avoided.

Blood is drawn from certain parts of the body, as from the temples, and from inflamed joints, with much greater ease, and with less of painful pressure than by the common method.

While its advantages over the simple application of leeches, consist in the facility of measuring with accuracy the quantity of blood extracted, and in producing a further determination of blood to the surface by the exhausted glasses.

It may be added, that in practice amongst the poor, the expence of leeches is materially lessened.

As the art of cupping has become a sort of distinct practice, enveloped in an air of trick and mystery; and has even afforded matter for "treatises," it cannot be expected that the use of the scarification should be readily given up in any circumstances; but I have never met with any who have experienced both methods of performing this operation, who have not expressed themselves decidedly in favour of that above mentioned; and except in urgent cases, and when leeches cannot be readily procured, (a thing not very likely to occur in a city), I have lately adopted this method exclusively. Two or three lively leeches generally suffice for the abstraction of four ounces of blood.

I am, Sirs, your very obedient servant,
Bath, October 7, 1819. J. G. MANSFORD.

INFLAMMATION OF VEINS.—Sirs, After the operation recommended by Mr. Brodie, for varicose veins, which you have noticed in one of your early numbers, to prevent the “creeping inflammation to which veins are liable,” I was not a little surprised on seeing that surgeon apply a ligature to the principle vein of the thigh after amputation. This practice, I find, he recommends to the pupils of St. George’s Hospital. I have amputated fifty limbs, and I never met with a case, or even heard of one, in which any subsequent occurrence indicated the propriety of this “precautionary practice.” Now, what is more likely to produce this peculiar *traveling* inflammation, which occurs in veins, than to tie it!

As soon as I receive your work, I look with avidity to the contents, for the fulfilment of your promise, to give an analysis of Mr. Brodie’s late book, on diseases of the joints. I have read it with eagerness, to discover something new in it, but without success, and I will venture to assert, that there is not a surgeon in this country, who attended the lectures of Mr. Abernethy, that will say it contains any thing new; yet the work is highly praised in *some* journals. The system of reviewing I advise you to expose. On applying to a shopman, in the service of a publisher in Paternoster Row, you will receive information which will astonish your readers. More on this subject anon.

Lest some of your readers may suppose that I am actuated by any dishonourable motive in addressing this letter to you, I shall not withhold my name.—I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,

B. C. OLDWOMAN, Esqr. F. R. S. A S S.

And Lecturer on the Principles and Practice of Surgery.

GAS LIGHT.—Mr. Gordon of Edinburgh has taken out a patent for a portable gas light machine, consisting of a globe of one foot diameter, which, when properly charged with gas, will yield a light equal to six common candles, for twelve hours, and so in proportion for other sizes. The forms of course may be varied. The result of this contrivance will be, that families will, in the course of time, send their servants to the gas makers to get their portable magazine charged, and ready for lighting every day, or every second day, without subjecting themselves to the trouble of making the gas in their own houses.

PERUVIAN BARK.—In the Parisian Journal of Pharmacy, a curious detail appears, of the effects produced by an atmosphere impregnated with Peruvian bark. M. Delpech of Guayra, (the port of the Caraccas), had stored up (in 1816) a large quantity of newly collected Peruvian bark, filling several apartments on the ground floor. Being visited by a number of friends, he was obliged to put some of them in the rooms occupied by the Peruvian bark (each containing from eight to ten thousand pounds.) These apartments were of much higher temperature than the rest of the house, occasioned by the fermentation of the bark. A bed in one of them was occupied by a traveller ill of a malignant fever (then very prevalent.) He found himself much better after the first day, though he had taken no medicine; and in a few days he was perfectly restored. This unex-

pected event induced M. Delpech to place other persons ill of fever, in his magazine, all of whom were speedily cured, simply by the effluvia of the bark. M. Delpech had deposited along with the bark, a bale of coffee, selected for his own use, and some bottles of French brandy, all of which remained for some months in the midst of the Peruvian bark. After this time, M. Delpech, on visiting his magazine, observed one of the bottles uncorked; and suspecting a servant had been making free with it, he determined to try the quality of the brandy. He was much astonished to find its quality greatly improved, having acquired somewhat of an aromatic flavour, and become more tonic and agreeable. This improvement he could only attribute to the bottle having been left uncorked; for on opening the others, they were found no way altered; but being then left open, they soon acquired all the good qualities of the first bottle. The bale of coffee was now opened, and a portion of it was roasted. Its flavour was found much altered; it was more bitter, and left in the mouth a taste similar to an infusion of bark. The bark which produced these effects was fresh.

It is well known that the Peruvian bark contains a volatile principle, on which its peculiar properties as a tonic depends. It is chiefly on account of the preparation first termed by the French chemists, essential salt of bark, containing its volatile parts, that Dr. Carmichael Smyth, and other eminent physicians, gave it a decided preference to any other.

FLY IN TURNIPS.—Lord Thanet, and Mr. Grey, both eminent agriculturists, have communicated to the Board of Agriculture their conviction, from experiments, that lime sown by hand, or distributed by a machine, is an infallible protection to the turnips against the ravages of the fly. It should be applied as soon as the turnips come up, and in the same daily rotation in which they were sown; and the lime should be slaked immediately before it is used, unless the air is sufficiently moist to render that operation unnecessary.

MAPLE TREE.—Experiments were made some years since in France, for extracting sugar from the maple tree, but they were subsequently abandoned. It appears, however, that in Bohemia better success has been obtained, and that M. Bodard has received important information on the subject. An incision was made in a maple tree, from which a quantity of syrup issued, which afterwards produced sugar, rivalling, as it is said, that of the beet root, or the cane.

CHESNUT TREE.—In Professor Selliman's Journal, a communication appears from Mr. W. Sheldon, on the chesnut tree, and the application of its wood to the purposes of tanning and dyeing. He has ascertained, by analysis, that the wood of the chesnut tree contains twice as much tannin as cleaned oak bark, and six-sevenths as much colouring matter as log-wood. Leather tanned with it is described as superior to that tanned with oak bark. Ink made with it is admirable, and in dyeing it seems to have a greater affinity for wool than either galls or sumach, causing, therefore, a more permanent colour. The inspissated aqueous extract of the chesnut wood very much resembles catechu, except that, according to Professor

Derry, of William's College, it precipitates a fourth more of gelatine, and in dyeing it is infinitely superior, for it gives the finest black, whilst the colour obtained from catechu is only a meagre olive. Mr. Sheldon concludes his letter by some details and observations, which will, perhaps, induce many to receive the more important part of it with caution. On making solutions of the wood, one from the trunk of a tree, three feet thick, and another from a limb, about three inches in diameter, and precipitating them by the same quantity of solution of gelatine, the precipitates appeared in congeries, bearing a proportion, in size, to the stick from which they were obtained. Mr. Sheldon thinks this may lead to a new nomenclature of precipitates, and to the illustration of the compound nature of bodies, and of chemical, or electro-chemical, affinities; and further, that even the size of a stick may probably be ascertained with almost as much precision as by actual admeasurement.

CLEANING OF BOTTLES.—It is well known that bottles in which wine has been kept, are usually cleaned by means of shot, which, by its rolling motion, detaches the tartrate of potash from the sides of the bottles. This practice, which is generally pursued by wine merchants, may give rise to serious consequences, as is evident from the following case:—A gentleman, who had never in his life experienced a day's illness, and who was constantly in the habit of drinking half a bottle of Madeira wine after dinner, was taken ill, in the course of the evening, with a severe pain in the stomach and bowels, which gradually yielded, within twelve hours, to the remedies prescribed by his medical adviser. The day following he drank the remainder of the same bottle of wine which was left the preceding day, and within two hours afterwards he was again seized with the violent colic, head-ache, shiverings, and great pain over the whole body. His apothecary becoming suspicious that the wine he had taken might be the cause of the disease, ordered the bottle from which the wine had been decanted to be brought to him, with a view that he might examine the dregs, if any were left. The bottle happening to slip out of the hand of the servant, disclosed a row of shot wedged forcibly into the angular bent-up circumference of it. On examining the beads of shot, they crumbled into dust, the outer crust (defended by a coat of black lead, with which the shot is glazed) being alone left unacted on, whilst the remainder of the metal was dissolved. The wine, therefore, had become contaminated with lead and arsenic, the shot being a compound of these metals, which, no doubt, had produced the mischief.

That acid liquors, particularly cyder, are rendered prejudicial by shot which are wedged in between the side of the bottle and its elevated bottom, is a fact of which we have long been aware, and we have frequently thought of noticing it in this work. A few weeks ago, we experienced a violent affection of the bowels, in consequence of having taken cyder, which we afterwards ascertained to contain lead, from being kept in a bottle, at the bottom of which shots were lodged.

WATER DOCTORS.—SIR,—Being persuaded the object of your work is to diffuse such knowledge as is likely to benefit mankind, I send you a short account of an affair which greatly amused

me and my wife, and not a little embarrassed our apothecary. My wife has been an invalid forty-five years next December, and has been a pretty annuity to our family apothecary for that time. The complaint of the head and other parts of the body not giving way to the apothecary's medicine, although she took six draughts daily, she determined to consult a *water doctor* in Berners-street. His advertisement, which she made me read, promised much—indeed so much, that I determined to consult him myself. Off we went by the stage on the following morning, and after being set down at Charing-Cross, we toddled together to the doctor's house. We were received at the door by a servant in livery. I said to my dame, "Well, this look well." The servant gracefully introduced us to a room where many patients were waiting, and told us we must take our turn. This was very reasonable, and so dame and I sat down. The good people on each side of us, from very good motives, no doubt, did every thing to increase our confidence in the great skill and judgment of the doctor; after learning the nature of my good woman's malady, they declared that their own sufferings were the same, which he had entirely relieved.—"Good again," said I to my dame: "how lucky it was that you discovered the doctor's advertisement!" Poor creature; I rejoiced exceedingly in a prospect of her being relieved of her maladies; for notwithstanding her groans, dejected and oftentimes distorted countenance from pain and irritability of temper, very likely from the same cause, I did not wish to part with her. "Dame" have I often said, "let us be off as nearly together as possible." We were interrupted in a few minutes by the servant, who politely told us, that in consequence of our apparent fatigue, the doctor would see us before the other patients: this I considered very kind. Off we toddled to the doctor's consultation room. The doctor was sitting at a table well loaded with books, with a wig, which inspired confidence and profound respect. My good old dame, who is never backward on such occasions, opened the business. She told him all her symptoms, and complained of receiving no benefit from her apothecary—the doctor shook his head. On approaching him, he desired I would take a seat at the other end of the room. "Very well, Sir," said I, "don't let me annoy you." My dame, who is pretty quick in observation, recollected his voice, and looking him steadily in the face, recognized him to be nothing more or less than our family apothecary! "Well, to be sure," said she, "is it you?" The doctor was not a little confused. He requested us, in the most feeling manner, not to let any one know that he was the "water doctor in London." As to my own astonishment I cannot describe it; I was really not able to say a word. "Well, well," said I, at last, "what a world we live in! All is humbug; and he who can humbug best is the cleverest man. Good morning Mr.—" said I. "Sir," said he, in a tone of voice that excited my pity, "don't say Mister—, say if you please, *Doctor*—." One of his servants afterwards told me, that the people waiting in the room into which my dame and I were first introduced, were paid to attend, for the purpose of puffing off the abilities, &c. of the water doctor. Sirs, what is most extraordinary to me and my wife is, that notwithstanding he has attended her more than twenty years, he never made any

enquiry respecting her water, nor did he ever express a wish to see it,—so I conclude that his London trade is mere *humbug*: that his pretended knowledge of diseases by the appearance of the water, is a bait to catch *flat* fish. My real name is James Jones, and that of my wife, Jane Jones, of which neither of us are ashamed, but for reasons well known to my dame, I shall subscribe myself
Your constant Reader,

Deptford, June 27, 1819.

J. P. CAMERON.

A few days after the receipt of the above letter, we received another from Mr. Jones, requesting us not to insert his communication respecting the Deptford apothecary, as his wife had still a great respect for him. On the 26th of July he sent us another letter, requesting us to give it an early insertion, because the apothecary had lately *slighted* both him and his wife.

Dr. HUGH SMITH'S COOLING APERIENT PILLS.—Mr. Stringer, the proprietor of these pills, who styles himself “chemist and druggist to his Majesty,” states that they are “prepared from the original prescription of the late Dr. Hugh Smith,” and that “they *justly* claim a preference over all other opening medicines, as they may be taken *with safety* by *either sex*, and will keep good in *all* climates, and “have not that tendency to *heat* the body, as is generally complained of from the opening pills *mostly* used.” He adds, “they are *particularly* useful in habitual costiveness, as a *frequent* use of them does not injure the constitution, but will remove a *long train* of diseases which alternately result from a confined state of the bowels; that they speedily remove head-ache, sickness occasioned by the bile in the stomach, and should *never* be omitted at bed-time, after excess of eating or drinking.” In *all* countries, the learned proprietor asserts, *bilious* complaints are the most prevalent disorders; “indeed,” says he, “the general health of *all* Europeans depends on the state of the bile, to the *redundancy* of which these *cooling* pills are a *specific antidote*, most effectually correcting the acrimonious juices of the stomach, and affording effectual relief.” Thus does this learned chemist and druggist to his Majesty, dare to differ in opinion with the great Doctor Curry, that instead of a *deficiency* of bile, the diseases of Europeans arise from a *redundancy*!! When such *great authorities* disagree, who indeed among us can decide? The *learned* chemist and druggist assures his readers, that the cooling “pills preserve a *due* state of health, they strengthen the stomach, create appetite, and promote digestion, and are adapted to either sex, *on every occasion*, where a laxative medicine is required, and should not be omitted after indulgence in the luxuries of the table!!!”

On subjecting these cooling pills to a chemical examination, we find the composition to differ from that of the common Scotch pills, only in having a greater proportion of the oil of aniseed, and the aloes of a more common quality. The contents of a guinea box of the “cooling aperient pills,” cost the proprietor about ten-pence.

Now, if this said chemist and druggist to his Majesty were acquainted with the effects of the component parts of his pills, instead of a *cooling* aperient, he would have termed them “a *heating* aperient.” Is there among the class of purgatives a more heating or stimulating one

than the extract vulgarly termed aloes? and is not its stimulating or heating quality increased by the addition of an essential oil of aniseed? As to its being an aperient proper for *both* sexes on *every* occasion which Mr. Stringer recommends *his* nostrum, we have no hesitation in asserting positively, for females in a certain condition, it is a very *unsafe* medicine. By producing a determination of blood to the pelvic viscera, it may occasion the most serious mischief; indeed, at a certain period, it is capable of producing effects that would endanger or destroy life. With regard to the declaration that they are a safe pill to continue for a length of time, or frequently to take, ignorant indeed must that man be of the effects of the most common medicines, who does not know that the frequent repetition of an aloetic medicine, by keeping up irritation in the rectum, is capable of producing piles, excrescences, and even inflammation, that may terminate in fistula. We have, at this time, a patient labouring under a most distressing affection of the rectum, which he attributes to the occasional use of an advertised remedy for bilious complaints, the basis of which is aloes.

That Doctor Hugh Smith, who unquestionably was an able physician, ever wrote so contemptible a prescription as the one "from which this royal chemist and druggist compounds his cooling pills," our knowledge of his practice will not allow us to believe. That he ever termed the pills "*a cooling aperient*," is still more improbable. No man more heartily condemned quackery than Dr. Hugh Smith. Any thing in the shape of a nostrum he discountenanced; and every medical man who knew him will say, that he was the last man in the world who would have lent his name to sanction so vile, so despicable a traffic; yet the name of this man, a great physician, and a truly honourable man, is transmitted to posterity in the list of nostrums attached to the Medicine Act as a proprietor!! In the same list, we find the names of Dr. Warren, Dr. Fothergill, Dr. Hunter, and other celebrated practitioners, who, during their lifetimes, condemned quackery as injurious to the public, and as disgraceful to the country; yet the names of these great men, to whose labours we are all greatly indebted, are recorded in a most infamous list; a list only worthy of being attached to the Newgate Calendar. It has been said, that the quack trade is protected, and of course sanctioned by the legislature. This is false; the duty on quack medicines was not a tax of necessity. Quack medicines were taxed by the legislature, with the view of suppressing the traffic, and not of increasing the revenue. It would certainly have redounded more to the honour of the legislature, had they suppressed the vile trade altogether. The produce to the revenue does not now exceed twenty-five thousand pounds, although it has been pushed to the fullest extent by vexatious prosecutions of innocent people; and, from our knowledge of some convictions, by *unjust* proceedings.

With respect to the appointment of chemist or druggist to his Majesty, it is merely honorary, and any chemist or druggist may style himself such with impunity. Those who have the appointment direct from his Chamberlain, have no more to do with his Majesty than any other druggist, his apothecary supplying him with all the drugs he may want.

Select Advertisements.

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GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 48.

To DECEMBER 1, 1819.

VOL. IV.

OF DR. J. H. MYERS,

*Physician to the Portuguese Hospital and to the General Dispensary,
Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, &c.*

THIS distinguished physician was born at New York, when the North American Colonies formed the brightest gem in the British crown. At an early period of his life he commenced the study of medicine under the late Dr. W. Hunter, Dr. G. Fordyce, and the other celebrated teachers of the day, both as an hospital and private pupil. It was his original intention to have made Oxford the seat of his studies; but the scruples of his father, a respectable and conscientious member of the Jewish persuasion, strictly attached to the tenets of his own sect, prevented it in consequence of the oaths required to be taken by his son, whom he wished to continue a member of the same religious sentiments as his family. Though the mind of young Myers possessed too much liberality to be shackled by the narrow ideas of any particular religion, yet from the respect he conceived to be due to his father, he gave up the more flattering prospects which a residence at Oxford promised, to pursue his professional studies at Edinburgh. After residing four years at this University, where his regular attendance on lectures, and the practice of the Infirmary, his liberality of sentiment and suavity of manners, procured for him the esteem and respect of the most celebrated professors; he took the degree of M.D. In the inaugural dissertation which he wrote on this occasion, on Diabetes, he promulgated new opinions relative to its cause and treatment, which subsequent experience has proved to be correct.

Having exhausted the stores of professional information which Edinburgh then afforded, he declined to commence the practice of medicine till he had acquainted himself with the state of medicine on the continent. With this view he visited the leading Universities in France, Germany, and Holland. At Leyden, in 1778, he took the degree of A.M.; a proof of his previous classical attainments. In Paris, he spent a winter in visiting the different medical schools, and associating with the first scientific and literary characters. In Berlin he re-studied anatomy, under the celebrated Professor WALTER. He afterwards visited Vienna, where he attended to every improvement connected with medicine. He then extended his journey to Rome, where he indulged his classical curiosity in visiting the rich remains of ancient science and taste. After an absence of three years he returned to England; and in 1784 commenced the practice of medicine in this metropolis, having first become a Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians. Of

VOL. IV.

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Dr. Myers, it may be said, no one ever commenced the career of practice with fairer prospects, both from his own talents and his accomplishments, in which no expence had been spared by his much respected father. He was accordingly immediately appointed physician to the Portuguese Hospital, the duties of which he long discharged highly to the satisfaction, both of the patients and governors. His next preferment was physician to the General Dispensary; an office he retained for a period of twenty years, and resigned only on account of bad health. Beside these appointments, Dr. Myers has for some time held that of physician to the Cumberland Free-Masons' School—an institution of a most benevolent nature, originally patronised by the late *Duchess of Cumberland*, and founded by that esteemed philanthropist, the late CHEVALIER RUSPINI. At this Charity are educated no less than seventy-five female children of destitute Free Masons, and afterwards apprenticed, or otherwise properly disposed of, to commence their career in life. But the establishment in which the doctor has taken most interest, and to which he is also physician, is the Institution of Mile End, for the education of the sons of Jews, in which all difference of sect and opinions is buried in the general principles of philanthropy, being supported by individuals of every religious persuasion, and which presents in modern times the only real picture of true religion in all her beauty, where animosity and every selfish passion are laid aside. Of this establishment, His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex becoming the patron, has set the princely, liberal, and rare example, which ought to be more generally followed in a christian country—to consider true charity as the offspring of no particular religion. Dr. Myers has been for a number of years, unfortunately for himself and the public, a martyr to gout, the repeated attacks of which, though they have greatly diminished the energy of his body, have not impaired the faculties of his mind. To alleviate the anguish of a paroxysm, he has had recourse to the vapour bath, on the principle suggested by the scientific and philanthropic character, the Honourable Basil Cochrane; (raised to a temperature above 150 Fahrenheit) and the advantage of this application in bringing the fit to a favourable termination, he has uniformly experienced as a powerful auxiliary to nature. On the first introduction of the French remedy, *Eau Medicinale*, by the recommendation of his friend, the late Dr. Saunders, he was induced to give it a fair trial; and the opinion of such a distinguished professional character, ought to have great weight on the minds of invalids. Dr. Myers has taken Mr. Want's remedy for some time, with a certain alleviation of his malady, and a much longer exemption from paroxysm. Such an opinion must be highly flattering to Mr. Want, as the discoverer of the composition of the *Eau Medicinale*, and corrector of its baneful qualities; it is literally *laudare a laudato viro*. In consequence of the use of this medicine, Dr. Myers has been enabled to attend to his friends who stand in need of his professional advice, but not to extend his services to all who are desirous to avail themselves of his superior talents. Though Dr. Myers has not hitherto distinguished himself as a literary character, yet it is well

known his classical acquirements are equal to his professional. He was the first that brought to this country an account of Sigault's operation of the Symphysis Pubis in 1780; the merits of which have been acknowledged by some obstetrical writers. He is a member of the Medical and Chirurgical Society, and of several other scientific Institutions in the metropolis, where he appears with equal advantage and respect. It is to be regretted, that whilst physician to the Portuguese Hospital, he did not communicate any observations on the peculiar diseases which frequently occur there. All classes or communities so peculiar and select as the sect to which he belongs, in their habits and modes of life, have maladies peculiar to themselves.

This being a subject of no small importance to the improvement of medicine, it is to be hoped the Doctor will be induced to publish the result of his experience and observations at the institution, for which he is so well qualified. Romazini set the example of an useful work on the diseases of different trades or professions, which has been shamefully neglected by the medical profession of this country.

The idea has long prevailed on the Continent that the British metropolis is open to superior talents, of whatever nation or class of the community the individual may be; and we believe in the metropolis of no other country, would the respectable subject of this memoir have met with the encouragement and attention from every persuasion as he has experienced in London. It has, however, been said, to the great disgrace of the legislature, that it is only in the British metropolis that the Medical Graduates of the respectable Universities of the Continent are insulted by being compelled to submit to an examination in a *dead language* as to their competency to exercise the healing art, after having passed the fiery ordeal, and the first academical honours conferred on them at the most respectable Universities. Insulting as this conduct has been felt by the Universities in Europe, the Graduates who have conducted their studies in the dead languages, who, generally speaking, are better acquainted with them than their own tongue, never object to it. Whatever the abilities of the candidate may be, and we never heard of a foreigner being found deficient in medical science, he will not be allowed to practice within the jurisdiction of the College of Physicians, unless he can pay that body of philosophers, who act or pretend to act only for the "good of his Majesty's liege subjects," the sum of seventy pounds for a licence!! To an English physician, whose education had cost him some hundred pounds, this sum may appear very trifling, particularly as the licence allows him to exercise his art in so productive a field as London; but to a foreigner, whose education cost him nothing, and who has nothing to boast of but mental attainments, the sum is a complete obstacle to his settling in London.

We have heard of some foreigners having been threatened with legal prosecutions, and of being suspended from practice if they did not complete their pecuniary obligation to the College!! Such conduct towards men of science, is disgraceful to the country; and if

the legislature allow them to enforce bye-laws, which militate against the encouragement of genius and the progress of science, they should at least transfer their power over their monkish charter to the Pope, who might convince the learned body of the necessity of adapting their laws to the advanced state of medical science. According to the present bye-laws of the College, the American and Portuguese physicians are excluded from the practice in London; because in America and Portugal, a knowledge of the dead languages is not required to complete a medical education, and the examinations are conducted in their native languages. Medicine being still in its infancy, it cannot be said, that these bye-laws of exclusion operate to the advantage of the citizens of London; for, according to them, a man, who in consequence of a discovery in the functions of the animal economy, becomes acquainted with the nature and cure of diseases, "the liege subjects of his Majesty's good city of London" would be deprived of the benefit of his advice, if the practitioner could not pass his examination in Latin and Greek, and pay seventy pounds for a licence!! To an examination, however strict, we do not object—we only contend that it should be conducted in the language with which the candidate is best acquainted. A man may be puzzled by a language he has not been accustomed to use; but if he cannot pass any medical examination to which the College can subject him, he certainly cannot be properly qualified to exercise the healing art. After a candidate has been at the enormous expence of an University education, it is unjust to make a further demand on his purse for a licence, which after all only allows him to practise in simple cases of disease, and absolutely places him, according to a late Act of Parliament, below the surgeon and apothecary.

To conclude our memoir of Dr. Myers, we shall borrow two appropriate lines from the immortal Pope—

"For modes of faith let graceless zealots fight,
He cannot err, whose life is in the right."

DROPSY.—Dr. Uwins has published two cases of Dropsy, the favourable termination of which he attributes to copious bleeding. In one, a woman aged thirty-two, the disease was general, the leg and belly being much swollen, and the breathing so very difficult, that she remained many nights without sleep. *The action of the arterial system "was extraordinarily increased, and the pulse very frequent and full."* Strong purgatives, the saturated tincture of fox-glove (50 drops every three hours,) and the Blue Pill (5 grains every night) were administered for three days without affording any apparent benefit. The patient was then bled to the extent of 24 ounces, and the medicinal treatment continued. The patient having the following night slept many hours in a recumbent posture, and being rather better the subsequent day, the arterial excitement continuing, recourse was again had to an abstraction of blood to the same extent. No immediate essential benefit resulting from this practice, superficial punctures with a lancet were made in one leg, as low as the ankle, and the following powder were exhibited four times a day:

Take of quicksilver with chalk, 6 grains;

Scammony, 8 grains;

Cream of Tartar, one scruple. Mix.

The quantity of serum which escaped from the punctures, was very considerable. The swelling of the legs, thighs, and belly, gradually subsided. From this period the secretion of urine, (which had been very small) was much increased. There was a slight redness around the punctured parts for a few days, but it disappeared on the use of an emollient ointment. The patient in a short time was in possession of sound health. In the other case, a similar treatment succeeded. Both cases were sequels of inflammation of the lungs, a point of great importance to bear in recollection. They were also attended with increased action of the arterial system, and with plethora.

The prescription of quicksilver with chalk and cream of tartar, is unchemical. In lieu of the former article, we would recommend half a grain of calomel. The chalk, by absorbing the excess of tartaric acid in the cream of tartar, destroys that peculiar purgative quality which renders it beneficial in cases of dropsy. The patients are, in our opinion, as much indebted to the medicines and punctures for their recovery, as to bleeding. Indeed, had bleeding not been employed, the result would probably have been similar. The preceding cases were communicated to Dr Uwins, by a practitioner in the country.

YELLOW FEVER.—To Mr Nodes Dickinson, member of the Royal College of Surgeons, staff-surgeon to the forces, &c. &c., we are indebted for some very valuable practical remarks on the disease termed yellow fever, incidental to strangers in the West Indies, from temperate climates. The new comers to the West Indies, being attacked by the disease, where neither marsh effluvium nor contagion existed, (to which it has been uniformly attributed) Mr. Dickinson, on prosecuting his enquiries as to the causes, ascertained that it was brought on by "*high atmospheric temperature.*" The importance of this fact is, that it points out more effectual means of securing visitors from an attack, or of rendering the fever so mild, that no danger can be apprehended from it. The means, of course, depends on producing a state of system, which secures it from the operation of the atmospheric heat, or, technically speaking, to destroy the predisposition to the disease. On this important subject, Mr. Dickinson observes: "Predisposition consists in that state of the body which is usually denominated the inflammatory diathesis; i. e. an aptitude to the diseases which result from an increased action of the sanguiferous system. The peculiar concomitants of this state are, a youthful period of life, a vigorous constitution, fulness of blood, and great muscular tone; in short, the common characters of rude health and strength. To this general predisposition of the system, inaction on ship-board, a full diet of animal food, with a liberal allowance of strong drink, will be found very materially to contribute.

"Whatever tends to correct this disposition by lowering the system, is the ground for a successful preventive treatment.

"It therefore deserves attention, that in those subjects stated to

possess a certain inaptitude to the diseases, or who are not predisposed by fulness and vigour of the system, the exposure to the exciting causes in them will generally be inadequate to produce a serious attack. The particular habit of body presents, in this case, such a natural barrier of preservation, as in the opposite temperament we should endeavour to create.

"With this view, recourse should be had to the following measures, as such individuals approach the warm latitude; namely, blood-letting; moderate and occasionally repeated purging; abstinence from fermented liquors of every description; and a reduction in the quantity and stimulant quality of solid food,

"These precautions should be continued during the remainder of the voyage; while bleeding and purging must be repeated on such occasions as are pointed out by a predisposed state of the system, after an arrival in the country; at which period, too, a rigid perseverance in the abstemious plan of diet, already recommended on ship-board, will be highly requisite,

"These are among the chief means of preventing an attack of the fever, by changing the condition of body. But if the more immediate exciting cause can also be diminished in its power, and the individual can repair, at his arrival in the West Indies, to an elevated situation in the interior of the country, where the temperature, compared with the heat of the maritime towns, is low, his safety will be greatly insured."

To this preventive treatment, Mr. Dickinson might have added, the use of the shower bath, three or four times a-week. Cold water applied to the head, we have found more effectual in protecting the system against the baneful effects of high temperature of the atmosphere, than any other remedy; and to the treatment recommended by Mr. Dickinson, it cannot but prove a powerful auxiliary.

The treatment of this formidable disease, must be regulated according to the stage and the general state of the constitution. In the first stage, Mr. Dickinson advises prompt and copious depletion, to unload the system of blood-vessels, and to allay morbid excitement. In the latter stage, when the stamina are weakened by the disease, he recommends a cautious and palliative plan, to quiet the system, and to obviate debility. The treatment of the first stage we shall give in the author's own words.

"The most effectual means of fulfilling the curative indication at the first attack is by a copious bleeding from a *large* orifice. With respect to *quantity*, it can only be determined by the particular circumstances of the case, to which no general rule can otherwise be applied, than that we should bleed until the inordinate excitement is reduced, and the predominant symptoms removed. If fainting come on, so as to prevent the requisite quantity of blood being withdrawn at once, we must embrace the earliest moment to renew the operation: or if, from the severity of the symptoms, an apparently great, and yet insufficient evacuation has not removed the principal pain, and reduced the fulness, force, and velocity of the circulation, it will be absolutely necessary to repeat the bleeding, making its obvious effect upon the symptoms of the disease the measure of our

rule in regard to the quantity it may be proper to take away. A third bleeding will seldom be necessary, if the previous evacuations have been *promptly* made, and sufficiently copious to remove the more violent symptoms, which, if they sometimes give way to the sudden detraction of sixteen to twenty ounces of blood, will more commonly require that from twenty to fifty ounces should be withdrawn at first, and repeated to the necessary extent in point of quantity, as often, and after such intervals, as the continuance of local pain and the general increase of excitement throughout the system may demand for their entire removal. This must be effected, or little permanent good will be done.

“ While a sufficient evacuation by bleeding is obtained, nothing will more effectually contribute to the relief of the patient than the immediate employment of the tepid bath, if the skin be soft, with a moderate degree of heat, and apparent tendency to relaxation. But should the heat of the surface be high, with great constriction, dryness, and general tension, it is preferable to resort to the immediate application of a reduced temperature, so conducted, by ablution or immersion in cold water, as to abstract the excess of caloric, and diminish the morbidly increased excitement: and to this effect the admission of a current of cool air through the patient's chamber, and the exhibition of cold drink, will essentially contribute. Beside this general application of cold, we should enjoin its assiduous employment, by sponging the surface with cold water, to diminish the inordinate heat which is continually accumulating in parts to which there occur topical determinations—to the head, hands, and feet; while, in addition to cool air and a refrigerant beverage, we must occasionally advise injections of cold sea water.

“ Having without loss of time resorted to bleeding, a purgative of active power should be administered while the patient remains in the warm bath; as, for example, ten grains of prepared calomel, with fifteen or twenty of jalap, or the compound extract of bitter apple; to be followed, unless a full effect is produced in two hours, by a solution of an ounce of the sulphate of magnesia, or other purging salt. Copious stools should thus be procured; and that this may be effected within as short a period as possible, an injection must be thrown up in aid of the medicine. Plentiful evacuations will generally follow the adoption of these means, succeeded by a general relaxation of the skin, and great relief.

“ A full evacuation of the contents of the bowels once obtained, the continuance of a purgative exhibition must be determined by existing circumstances. Congestions in the brain and liver are the frequent cause of fatal mischief; and it has been found decidedly beneficial, in almost every instance, to keep up a brisk purging until the symptoms have manifestly abated. This is marked by the reduction of vascular action, and that restoration of secretion which accompanies universal relaxation. The object in this case is best effected by moderate doses of prepared calomel combined with jalap, or by an adequate dose (from four to six drachms) of a purging salt, repeated agreeably to the circumstances of the case.

“ Cooled water, fruit, the saline mixture, imperial or soda wat. r,

may be liberally allowed, to diminish thirst. In a disease which runs its course so rapidly, it is almost superfluous to notice that the diet, if any nourishment can be required in the first stage of the attack, should be free from stimulants."

The contents of Mr. Dickinson's work, we find, will not admit of a satisfactory condensation. To those who are about to visit a tropical climate, or country where the yellow fever prevails, we recommend the perusal of the whole work. The title of the book is, "Observations on the Inflammatory Endemic, incidental to Strangers in the West Indies, &c. from temperate Climates, commonly called Yellow Fever."

INFLAMMATION of the BRAIN. — Dr. Parkinson, who, to the great regret of the inhabitants, has lately left Leicester, for the purpose of elucidating a new pathological nomenclature in this metropolis, and who for the space of one month flourished away in Paternoster Row, as the successor to Dr. Adams, in the Editorship of the London Medical and Physical Journal, has published a case of an affection of the brain, under the name of Inflammation of the Brain, which terminated favourably under his care. On the first visit he paid the patient, "he was informed that he returned the same morning from a journey to Bath and several other places in the regular course of his business. At Bath he had associated with some of his customers, with whom he drank spirit in great excess for some days, contending vehemently with them on religious subjects." On leaving Bath, he became abstemious. At Redford an acquaintance pronounced him to be evidently deranged; and this opinion his friends entertained on his arrival in London. When he took his place on the outside of a coach to London, the guard objected to receive him as a passenger, on account of his mental derangement. His friends, however, prevailed on the guard to let him proceed. In the forenoon of the 21st of August, he arrived in London. The state in which the doctor found him we shall give in his own elegant language:—"He was exceedingly agitated, apprehending he was an apostate, and that he was called for to immediate and eternal punishment, seeing demons, as he imagined, to seize him and carry him to judgment. Remonstrances were not availing. *His pulse was slow and contracted, his skin hot, his tongue white, his face flushed, his eye-brows knitted, his voice loud and harsh, his language imperative. His persuasion that all he imagined was real, could not be weakened by any means that could be employed. Ungovernable in his actions, bent upon self-destruction, begged for others to destroy him.*"

After ordering twenty ounces of blood to be taken from a vein of the arm, he prescribed the following medicines:

Take of prepared calomel, six grains; conserve of hips, a sufficient quantity to form a bolus. To be taken immediately after the operation of bleeding, with four large spoonful of a solution of Epsom salt (two ounces of Epsom salt in seven ounces of water), the latter of which was to be repeated every three hours, till copious evacuations were produced. He also directed cold water to be assiduously applied to the head. On visiting the patient about three

hours afterwards, he found "him somewhat more tranquil, face less flushed, *pupils contracted*, eyes fierce, voice and mind nearly the same, pulse more dilated and quicker---the medicine had operated well." The doctor ordered bleeding to be repeated to the same extent, and the following medicines to be taken:

Take of Emetic Tartar, two grains;

White sugar, two drachms;

Cream of tartar, *half* a drachm!!

Common water, seven ounces and a half.

Mix.---Three large spoonsful to be taken every three hours.

Take of strong mercurial ointment, one drachm. To be rubbed into the skin of the inside of the thigh, &c. assiduously *every four hours*. The doctor enjoined "a *total* abstinence from *any* thing but water."!!

On the following morning, at nine o'clock, the doctor found "the symptoms of the same *quality*, though less violent." At six in the afternoon, "the alvine evacuations were copious; the patient very feeble, and much stiller." He now ordered a straight waistcoat, and bleeding, to be repeated to the extent of sixteen ounces; a blister to be applied to the *whole* head, and to persist in the use of the mixture of emetic tartar, &c.

On the following day, "the alvine discharges free, but less quiet. Ungovernable; face flushed; pulse quick and hard." A perseverance in the medicines was urged, as well as an application of twelve leeches to the temples. In the afternoon, about six o'clock, he was much better. "The leeches had bled well, copious alvine discharges, dark coloured and watery. He ordered the blistering plaister to the head to be repeated, and the mercurial friction to be continued. At nine o'clock he revisited him, when "his pulse was feeble, *general* symptoms less violent." He ordered the following medicine:—

Take of Assafœtida;

Carbonate of Ammonia;

Camphor; of each 3 grains.

Mix for a bolus.

Take of infusion of Gentian, 7½ ounces;

Spirit of Sulphuric Ether, 2 drachms. Mix.

The bolus to be taken, with three large spoonsful of the mixture, ever fourth hour.

The following morning, at nine o'clock, the doctor was informed his patient had "slept at intervals, in all about two hours; no evacuations. He found the pulse *too* full and quick. Evident remissions. Exacerbations at nine in the morning and nine at night."

He ordered twelve leeches to be applied to the temples, and the following aperient medicines:—

Take of Calomel, 12 grains;

Extract of bitter apple, 1 drachm.

To be divided into 16 pills. Four to be taken every third hour, with three large spoonsful of the solution of Epsom salt, until they operate on the bowels.

In the evening he found him much cooler and calmer. The leeches

had bled freely, and the medicines had operated copiously. He ordered the solution of Epsom salt to be continued.

The following morning, at nine, "his countenance and pulse much better; intervals of refreshing sleep; evident intermissions; discharges by stool, copious. The paroxysm coming on about nine o'clock in the evening.

The doctor ordered the saline mixture, with antimonial wine, which is followed with the following memorandum:—"Meet the next paroxysm, which is predicted at nine to-morrow morning;" the meaning of which we do not comprehend. The following morning, at nine o'clock, the doctor was with the patient, when he was informed that he "had had some sleep at intervals, and had been more tranquil. The paroxysm, and *all* the symptoms returned in excess; the pulse 130; ungovernable, at the time of the doctor's visit. He ordered twenty ounces of blood to be taken from the nape of the neck by cupping, and the operation to be repeated in the evening, if the paroxysm recurred. Mustard poultices to be applied to the feet.

The paroxysm did not recur in the evening. The "bowels were open, and the mouth sore with the mercurial ointment." He ordered an ounce of syrup of buckthorn to be added to the solution of Epsom salt, and the mercurial friction to be discontinued. At ten o'clock he was informed he slept longer at a time. The solution of Epsom salt to be continued. The following morning, at ten, he learned that the patient had slept nearly two hours. The evacuations were copious. "About nine he began to be worse. The pulse quickened, 130; face flushed; eye reddened; *mind much deranged. The mustard poultices had acted well.*" The doctor directed,—"As the paroxysms would begin to decline about noon, he may take the following powder, at one o'clock.

"Take of compound powder of Ipecacuan, *one scruple.*"

At nine o'clock the doctor was informed that he became more calm. At one he took the powder, and slept more than three hours. He ordered the powder to be repeated at one o'clock the following morning. On his next visit (at ten o'clock the next morning) he was told that "he had had three stools; all the motions had been dark coloured and watery hitherto, but now *bilious*. The first dose of opium *calmed*, the last laid *prostrate*; sweats *profusely*." At four o'clock he found him "still, more rational, pulse feeble, mouth *very sore*."

He ordered "wine and water, or a *little* porter, beef-tea, gruel, tea, or milk porridge; no medicine." On the following day, he was "more tranquil and rational; pulse soft, and much slower; slept soundly more than two hours at a time; no stool." He ordered the solution of Epsom salt, the infusion of roses, and a change of linen, and washing." At three o'clock, the doctor learnt that he "bore shifting well; he was in all respects better: takes wine and water, milk, broth, &c. The infusion of roses, and solution of Epsom salt, to be continued." On the following day, he found him "better; his voice changed from harsh to soft-toned, from imperative to precativ," and the medicines to be continued. The three following

days, his amendment was rapid. On the fourth, he ordered him into the country.

On this case, the doctor observes: "I consider it inflammation of the *substance* of the brain, and that the means employed, and to the full extent mentioned, were not only efficacious in preserving the life and the intellect of the patient, but were probably such *only* as would have been availing." From the doctor's narrative of the history of the case, and the result of his treatment, we are disposed to agree with those people who pronounced it to be mania: that species technically termed *mania plethor*. If active inflammation had existed in the *substance* of the brain, would the pupils of the eyes have contracted? In all the cases we have met with, where it was ascertained; by dissection, that the *substance* of the brain was inflamed, the pupils of the eyes were *dilated*, in consequence of the optic nerves being compressed by distended blood-vessels. When the *meninges* of the brain are inflamed, the pupils are always contracted.

With what view the doctor employed mercurial friction, when the brain and nervous system were in a morbid state of excitement, we are at a loss to conjecture. Many medical practitioners, who do not aspire to the elevated situation of a teacher, would, we suspect, attribute the obstinacy of the disease to the effects of mercury. Surely the doctor could not have supposed that effusion of serum had taken place in the head, or that mercury in the early stage of the complaint was likely to prevent it. The exhibition of assafetida with camphor, the volatile ammonia, and bitter infusion, at the time when the system was nearly saturated with mercury, puzzles us exceedingly, particularly as the learned doctor is not a Brunonian. We are inclined to attribute the fortunate escape of the patient to the effect of the opium in allaying cerebral excitement, which the introduction of mercury to such an extent as to affect the mouth, might have produced, or at any rate kept up. We advise the doctor to explain to his pupils the reason for his having had recourse to mercurial inunction in this case, and why the patient should not have recovered more rapidly had it not have been employed.—The doctor threatens the profession with a new pathological nomenclature, the advantage of which is a "pure etymology!" Instead of ransacking the dead languages for new names for diseases, drugs, and different parts of the human body, it would be more creditable to him to cultivate a better acquaintance with his vernacular tongue. A knowledge of the nature, cause, and treatment of diseases, the properties of drugs, and the offices of different organs, &c. of the body, is of far greater consequence to his pupils than to confuse their brains with fine sounding names, or a pure etymology.—We advise the doctor to read Wilson on the Origin of Languages. It will, perhaps, convince him that the Greeks themselves were originally induced to give names to articles from certain resemblances, as the Latins termed a muscle (*musculus*) from its resemblance to a mouse, (*mus*.) Mrs. Johnson, on this subject, would quote Shakespeare—"What's in a name, it forms no part of thee," &c. The doctor's

labours might have succeeded in raising his fame five hundred years ago. By a diffusion of knowledge, every class of society is now capable of distinguishing pedantry from science.

From technicalists or pedantic practitioners, of whom there are but too many, he may meet with approbation, whilst in the mind of men of science he will excite no other feeling than that of contempt. That name for a disease, a drug, or a part of the body, is surely the best, by which it is best understood. The technicalist we have uniformly found to be superficially acquainted with the practice of medicine. The doctor thus concludes his supposed case of inflammation of the *substance* of the brain: "I have *publicly* given it as my opinion, and have taught it to *my* pupils, that the brain *within the head* is an organ of sense, composed of the same *materials* and *association* as all the perceiving organs, such as the expansion of the optic nerve (retina) &c. viz. an association of muscle with brain, (which he terms) "*Myeleuthytone hæmeuthytodes*;" otherwise, says he, "I cannot conceive how it could obtain the functions called perception, consisting of the two essential attributes of animal life, sensation and motion; but the great office of the brain *within the head*, is to elaborate perception obtained by the organs of sense into judgment or *mind* (!) or to direct the commands of the *mind*, volitions through the nerves (*Myeleuthytone enyphantodes*) to the *moving* solids hæmeuthytone, vulgarly called muscle, from some supposed resemblance to a mouse"!!

Thus the doctor is as great a metaphysician as he is a physician. To our medical readers, the doctor's supposed case of inflammation of the brain is not destitute of interest. As to the patient, it must be highly gratifying, in having had his stamina so scientifically tested.

RHEUMATIC INFLAMMATION OF THE EYE.—The Medico-Chirurgical Society has published a paper on this species of inflammation of the eye, from the pen of Mr. Wardrop, an eminent surgeon of this metropolis. The symptoms which characterise this inflammation, are a peculiar brick-red tinge, or an admixture of yellow with crimson red. The distended blood-vessels are visible over the whole white passing forwards in nearly straight lines from the posterior part of the eye-ball, and advancing close to the cornea; but neither passing over it, nor leaving that pale circle around it, which is so evident when either the choroid coat, or iris is inflamed. The general redness is produced more from numerous small ramifications than a few large trunks; on close examination, the conjunctive tunic covering the cornea, appears to be abraded. This disease commences with an unpleasant sensation of dryness, which is sooner or later succeeded by a copious secretion of tears. The eye-lids are very slightly swelled, and the vessels of the interior surface but little distended. On the commencement, the chief seat of pain is in the head, sometimes affecting the eye-balls. It is usually most severe in the temple of the side of the affected eye; but it is often seated in the brow, the cheek-bone, the teeth, the lower jaw, the ear, or one half of the head. The pain is gene-

rally of a dull agonizing kind than acute, varying in degree, sometimes coming on in very severe paroxysms, particularly on bending the head downwards. In the eye-ball the sensation is more of fullness than of pain. The primary or principal seat of the disease, Mr. Wardrop supposes to be the sclerotic coat, because its texture resembles that of the membranes of the body, which are liable to rheumatic action. Besides the peculiar redness of the eye, &c. there is a disturbed state of the constitution, the circulation is quickened, the temperature of body increased, the skin dry, the tongue white and furred, the stomach disordered, &c. Like rheumatism of other parts of the body, it may be traced to sudden vicissitudes in the atmosphere, and is most prevalent in particular seasons.

The species of inflammation of the eye, with which it is most likely to be confounded, is the syphilitic, but from it, it may be distinguished by its progress, and more particularly by the constitutional symptoms.

In the rheumatic inflammation of the eye, Mr. Wardrop has found the evacuation of the aqueous humour attended with much advantage. In neglected or improperly treated cases, when the cornea has become dim and clouded, so as to impair vision, the good effects of this operation were uniformly instantaneous, the pains in the head cleared, and the cornea soon became transparent: no applications were afterwards necessary, but fomentations to the parts around the eye. If the ball of the eye continue irritable, the *vinous* tincture of opium may be applied to it. Particular attention must also be paid to the digestive organs. In the early stage of the disease, Mr. Wardrop has found an emetic draught (composed of an ounce of ipecacuan wine and a drachm of antimonial wine) speedily to alleviate the pain in the head, and to diminish the inflammation of the eye. After the operation of the emetic, the bowels should be emptied by the exhibition of a dose of calomel and rhubarb. When the disease has succeeded a sudden chill, the functions of the skin should be excited by a dose of antimonial powder, with or without opium, every four or six hours; this has generally the effect of allaying pain and procuring sleep. From local bleeding little advantage has been derived, except it was attended with a plethoric state of the constitution. In the early stage, the pain of the eye and brow is relieved by a fomentation of poppies. Repeated applications of blistering plaister behind the ear, or to the nape of the neck, greatly contribute to the cure; but they should never be applied near the affected eye. With respect to local applications, the *vinous* tincture of opium is the only one that has proved decidedly beneficial; it should not be applied till the latter period of the inflammation, when the constitutional symptoms have subsided. It may be applied by means of a camel-hair pencil between the eye-lids, once or twice a day, as long as it affords relief. The very beneficial effects of the Peruvian bark in rheumatic affections of the joints, induced Mr. Wardrop to give it a trial in this species of inflammation of the eye. He commenced its use after the stomach and bowels had been properly emptied, although the

tongue remained very white, and the pulse quicker than natural; the result has convinced him, that it is as powerful a specific in this disease, as it is in ague. He recommends the powder to be given from five to eight grains, in a little warm water, every two hours, or as often as the stomach will bear it. It sometimes purges the bowels considerably, which he has not found to diminish its specific effect. In all rheumatic affections of the acute kind, Mr. Wardrop has found the mineral acids extremely useful, which he attributes to their effects on the biliary secretions; he gives a preference to the diluted sulphuric acid, ten drops of which, with a teaspoonful of syrup of roses, and a glass of cold water, form a pleasant draught, which may be taken three or four times a day. In some cases he has found turpentine, either singly or combined with the Peruvian bark or rhubarb, beneficial. Mercury given to an extent to affect the gums, has always aggravated the symptoms.

Every practitioner of experience and observation, will duly appreciate Mr. Wardrop's communication:—the faculty and public at large are much indebted to him for the attention he has paid to the subject. We have very frequently met with this species of inflammation of the eyes in arthrico-rheumatic subjects, and we have always thought that gouty action predominated.

The scientific account Mr. Wardrop has given of the disease, will induce us to pay more attention in future to the constitution of the patient, in order to ascertain if it be independent of gout. Inflammation of the eyes, *entirely* gouty, is, with respect to treatment, a most perplexing disease. So extremely irritable is the external surface of the eye, that even the topical application of aqueous solution of opium, the electric aura, and cold and warm water, evidently aggravates it. Internal remedies, anodyne, cooling and stimulating, as well as blistering the skin of the nape of the neck and behind the ears, rather increase than diminish the irritation. We have at this time a gentleman under our care, afflicted in an extraordinary degree with this complaint. Being the brother of an eminent physician in the country, he has obtained gratuitously the opinion of all the leading practitioners of London, whose modes of treatment have increased the malady. We hope Mr. Wardrop will favour the faculty with the result of his practice on this disease, as he speaks of it in his valuable paper on the rheumatic species. To us it is a source of great satisfaction to meet with communications from such men as Messrs. Wardrop, Abernethy, and Mansford, who can have no other object in view than the promotion of medical science, and consequently the real good of mankind.

That parts of the body of similar texture to that of the sclerotic coat of the eye is subject to rheumatism, we have long been convinced. We are satisfied that we have often met with rheumatism of the aorta and pulmonary artery, and we believe the disease termed pectoral angina, to be of this nature. Of rheumatic affections of the aorta, we have experienced several attacks, and the treatment which this conviction has pointed out, has uniformly succeeded in removing it.

GALVANISM.—(Dr. De Sanctis's letter to Professor Allini, continued from page 313.)—Having made the final improvement on your necklace pile, which in future I shall denominate the "*pensile pile*," I mean shortly to publish a description of its mechanism, with popular instructions for its management in cases of suspended animation, or those diseases in which it may be advisable to excite the nervous system. At the same time I shall narrate the phenomena which occurred during the experiments I made in bringing the apparatus to its present state of perfection. The phenomena are of that nature as to throw much additional light on the coincidence of the galvanic with the electric fluid; and I think also on the nature of the latter, and particularly of its *affinity* with caloric and light. The results of my experiments tend greatly to elucidate the late report of Dr. Hare, of the United States. They likewise confirm my former statement, that the intensity of the polar condensations depends on the number as well as on the extent of the acting surfaces of the plates, and at the same time on the force and rapidity of the chemical actions of the pillar elements. Their heterogeneity, which was of great consideration on the first discovery of galvanism, for the electro-motion at the present state of the pile, is the smallest acting power, or, more properly speaking, a *conditio sine qua non*, more than an acting power. When I mentioned pillar elements, I alluded to all the ingredients which are used, not only in the structure of the pile, but even in the bath of it; and so I should observe, that choice of the acid, and the degree of concentration, are not subjects of indifference. Besides the force and rapidity of the action of the acid on the metals, consideration is to be had to the contemporaneous development of caloric and electricity; but caloric is not always a favourable circumstance to the accumulation of electricity. The action of sulphuric acid, in different proportions, with water, produces a greater quantity of caloric than the same combinations of muriatic acid with water; but the accumulation of electricity is more abundant in the latter than in the former.

The nitric acid, however, is more powerful than the muriatic, in every degree of concentration. When pure, two rapid successive immersions of a pile, composed of only eighty plates of an inch and $\frac{1}{8}$ diameter, with clothes of $\frac{1}{2}$ diameter, were capable of determining a discharge through the twisted silk covered with wax, by which the assistant was holding the pile, his body, the ground of the garden, and my body, when I was touching by accident the lower extremity of the pile with my *dry* fingers; meanwhile the extent of the twisted silk was nearly two feet, and the distance of the assistant from myself was more than a yard and a half. Does not this accidental occurrence give some degree of probability to the power which some people in our country say they possess of being sensible to the effects of metals some distance below the surface of the earth, and particularly when situated near springs of water in the Appennines? Our pile was suspended many feet from the ground; we wore worsted stockings, which, like the silk cord, are very bad conductors. Why should not subterraneous beds of metals, particularly near the

springs of water, determine galvanic discharges through more conducting bodies than branches of certain shrubs, so as to affect their nervous system, and even slightly to agitate the muscles of their arms, and to act galvanically on the branches of the shrubs they hold in their hands, giving them an inclination downwards?

The interesting results I have met with, have encouraged me to prosecute my researches; and some results tending to confirm that the Canton's and Cavello's Amalgams present in the aggregations of their not intimately connected elements a series of *infinitesimal piles*, would, perhaps, subdue to the galvanic laws the very development of the common electricity! meanwhile be pleased to agree for this moment with the communication of some other improvements which I have endeavoured to make in the common chest of instruments for cases of suspended animation. The necessity of adding the *pensile pile*, with all its accompanying articles, would have increased the dimension of that chest which was already rather too large; but, happily, I was able not only to give a compensation for the space occupied by the pile, but even to reduce the dimension of the chest in a greater degree, notwithstanding the addition of some other complementary machine. The bellows which were employed first attracted my attention.—Why not adopt *box-bellows*, which on being pressed, would only occupy an inch or two in depth, and three or four in breadth, with the appendages? They are to be composed of two light leather cylinders, each divided into four partitions, kept together with elastic wires, and separated by a middle wood cylinder, furnished with two valves in one part, and a double tube in the other. The valves are so disposed and so connected with the two valves, situated at the very circumference of the light wood plates, closing externally the bellows at the other end, that with due management, they may easily allow a passage to the air in opposite directions; so that inspiration may alternate with expiration when the apparatus is adapted to the larynx tube, previously fixed with the stomach metallic flexible tube on the regulator, which passes through a hole in the middle of the coated plate, the mouth being closed by elastic bandages,—(To be continued.)

WEN.—Dr. Somerville has communicated to the profession the particulars of a new operation for the cure of this disease, which he had an opportunity of seeing performed during his residence in Naples, by Dr. Quadri, an eminent surgeon of that city.

From the cases which Dr. Quadri has communicated to Dr. Somerville, in which the operation succeeded, we select the following, on account of its illustrating his mode of operating.

“On the 14th of February, by means of a trochar pointed needle, six inches and a-half long, I passed a seton, left and right, transversely through the gland. The tumor was soft, and the circumference of the neck measured sixteen inches and a-half (French), and the breadth of the tumor six inches. The seton produced inflammation throughout the left side of the gland, which was materially augmented by the introduction of black hellebore root, on the 15th of March, which was kept in the wound three days. In the end of March,

after withdrawing the seton, the wound healed rapidly, scarcely leaving a vestige of the wen on the left side, and such diminution had taken place on the right, that the neck measured only fifteen inches. On the day the doctor determined to pass a seton on the right side of her neck, the patient was under the necessity of returning to her family."

From the cases which Dr. Somerville has published, it appears that a seton may be passed through a wen sixteen times, varying the direction in every instance, without producing any untoward occurrence; or, as Dr. Somerville observes, "scarcely a possibility of danger," unless the needle were introduced so deep as to wound the scutiform cartilage, or the principal thyroid arteries. From the results of the operation, the following practical inferences may be drawn, that it is not dangerous to perforate a wen with a trochar pointed needle deeply in the gland, provided it be not brought near the cartilage; that the consecutive inflammation is productive of trifling inconvenience; that when the irritation of the seton is not adequate to excite a sufficient degree of inflammation and suppuration, they may be successfully obtained by the introduction of black hellebore root; that it is expedient to retain the seton in the tumor for a considerable length of time, in order to keep up the suppuration, until a cure is effected; and that the beneficial effects of suppuration rarely fails to extend throughout the whole substance of the gland.

If, in the immediate neighbourhood of the part through which the seton passes, an irregular fungous margin rises up, Dr. Quadri directs it to be cut off with a pair of scissors, on withdrawing the seton, to prevent deformity. For a short time after the cure, the skin remains corrugated, but it soon resumes its natural appearance.

ST. VITUS'S DANCE.—In an early number we have noticed some cases of this disease, which were cured by the internal use of arsenic. Mr. Salter, a scientific surgeon of Poole, having found the purgative plan of treatment recommended by Dr. Hamilton ineffectual, has been induced to give the arsenical liquor of the London Pharmacopœia a trial. In four cases, which successively occurred in his practice, this remedy succeeded. As all the cases are similar, we shall give the first.—Elizabeth Hardyman, seventeen years of age, with a dark complexion, dark eyes and hair, had been affected with St. Vitus's Dance for three months; the muscles of the arms were mostly affected with the irregular and involuntary motion; but those of the trunk and lower extremities were considerably under the influence of the disease; indeed, the whole body was thrown into the most grotesque attitudes. The bowels constipated—she complained of head-ache, the pain chiefly in the forehead—her nights were very much disturbed by frightful dreams, and by spasms—her appetite good—pulse eighty.

After giving her four purgative doses of scammony and calomel, the complaint appeared to be worse; the jactitations being stronger, and at all times more evident. On the 5th of May, Mr. Salter commenced the exhibition of the arsenical liquor, in the dose of four drops, three times a day. On the 7th of May the involuntary motions of the muscles were less violent, her bowels regular, and

the stools natural. Mr. Salter directed the dose to be increased one drop daily. May 17th, the patient was nearly well; fourteen drops of the arsenical liquor were then taken three times a day; she was directed to persevere in its use without increasing the dose. On the 3d of June there were scarcely any remains of the disease; she was perfectly still, even whilst conversing, which heretofore had never failed for the time to produce slight aggravation of the symptoms. She had passed once her usual period of menstruation; and within the last four or five days had been troubled with a short, frequent and dry cough, the tongue furred and white, the appetite not so good; pulse 100. Notwithstanding these symptoms, her appearance was greatly improved, since she had been taking the arsenical liquor; and she was considerably increased in flesh, so that the beneficial effects of the medicine were strikingly apparent in removing the disease, and in improving the general health. Mr. Salter's object in prescribing the medicine having been obtained, he discontinued it for the following.—Take of the compound mixture of iron of the London Pharmacopœia, 1½ ounce, to be taken twice a day. Take of the aloetic pill with myrrh, eight grains; extract of white poppies, five grains; mix, and divide into three pills, to be taken every night and morning. On the 10th of June the patient was in every respect much better, the medicines had operated freely upon the bowels; the mixture having made her sick, Mr. Salter ordered her to take twelve grains of the aloetic pill with myrrh, with a tea-cupful of chamomile flower tea. On the 18th of July, being in every respect well, Mr. Salter discontinued his attendance.

ASTHMA.—Dr. Uwins, in his Monthly Report of Diseases for October last, states, that in “one of the most obstinate cases of convulsive asthma he ever witnessed,” he found the stramonium to subdue the paroxysm speedily, after the ordinary routine of remedies had failed. He was induced to give this medicine a trial, in consequence of the high terms in which Mr. Kirby speaks of its antispasmodic properties in his “Cases of Surgery.” This favourable report of the effects of stramonium on asthma, has induced Dr. Ward, an eminent practitioner of Maidenhead, to address a letter to the Editor of a Monthly Publication, of which the following is an extract:—“On a perusal of the Medical Report, in your Magazine for the present month, I found the particulars of some cases of asthma, which, after resisting the usual routine of medicines, had yielded to a preparation of stramonium. Dr. Uwins states his attention to have been drawn to this remedy, from a perusal of a volume of “Cases of Surgery,” lately published by Mr. Kirby, which is certainly a work entitled to praise. I am much gratified to see the subject has created some interest in the mind of a gentleman of such acknowledged abilities as Dr. Uwins's, from whom it will meet with that consideration to which it is undoubtedly entitled.

“In common justice to myself, I must here state, that the practice of giving stramonium in asthma is not new. Previous to the publication of Mr. Kirby's work, I sent a paper to the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal, on the internal use of stramonium,

which, on account of the prevalence of pulmonic affections, I entreated they would publish immediately. With this request they complied, but were obliged to curtail my communication for want of room; and hence, probably, (from the brevity of the paper) arose the reason that less attention has been paid to it than the nature of the subject deserves.

"The *datura stramonium* was tried on a large scale, both in public and private practice, with the greatest benefit, not only in asthma, but in many catarrhal and pulmonic affections; and, in my opinion, needs but to be more known, to be almost universally approved. In the communication above alluded to, I said, 'in many cases, it has, I think, succeeded better than the squill;' and from the strict letter of this, I have not found the least necessity to retract."

The great incentive which has induced the doctor to make this communication; he expressly states, is to make the internal use of stramonium as generally known as possible, both for the information of those members of the faculty who have not had an opportunity of witnessing its effects, and also for the relief of suffering humanity.

In cases of super-irritative asthma and pulmonary consumption, no medicine has succeeded so well in our practice, as the oxymel of stramonium. In asthma, indeed, of every species, it has uniformly afforded essential relief; and in pulmonary consumption, if the lungs have not sustained considerable strictural disease, this is the remedy on which dependence can be principally placed. We say *principally*, because, in such a formidable disease, no practitioner would trust *solely* to an internal remedy. This oxymel powerfully allays irritation in the lungs, and the vinegar which it contains also quiets the stomach, and promotes digestion. The practitioner acquainted with the nature of the disease, which takes place in the substance of the lungs, in pulmonary consumption, will call into his aid other remedies. He will prevent an afflux of nervous fluid to the lungs, by exciting the energy of the nerves of the skin, by irritants; as the euphorbium plaister, or blistering plaister; and when the morbid irritability of the lungs is considerably reduced, he will endeavour to increase the action of the absorbent vessels, with the view to effect the mutation of the diseased part; and, for this purpose, mercury is perhaps the best remedy. When the irritability of the lungs has subsided, oxygen gas may also be inhaled with great advantage. This gas, after the inflammatory action of the lungs was subdued by the carburetted hydrogen gas, we know, has been administered under the care of Mr. Payne of Bond-street, with success.—Some medical men, of delicate feelings, have objected to the oxymel of stramonium, because it is a nostrum. We see no reason why it should be so deemed. It is not a secret preparation; and, surely, as much an officinal article as the extract, the powder, or any other preparation of the herb. It is assuredly the best for affections of the lungs, the vinegar preventing that disorder of the stomach and head, which too frequently follows the use of the tincture, the extract, or the powder.

SCIRRHUS.—In some of our early numbers, we have noticed the beneficial effects of the internal use of the carbonate of soda, and

blue pill, and the topical application of a piece of the prepared skin of a hare. The benefit of this treatment we have lately witnessed. The patient, Mrs. L. of Kingston, aged about 48, solicited our opinion of a scirrhus enlargement of the gland of her right breast. She told us, that a surgeon, who had examined it, had urged immediate extirpation. We ordered her to take two scruples of the *carbonate* of soda twice a-day, dissolved in a quarter of a pint of water; four grains of the blue pill, with five of the extract of hemlock, every other night, and to keep the affected breast constantly covered with a piece of a prepared hare skin, with the hairy part next to the breast. In the course of a week, the tumour ceased to be painful; and, on examining it three weeks afterwards, it was evidently diminished nearly one-half. She persisted in the use of the remedies two months longer, when the gland was reduced to its natural size. The carbonate of soda and blue pill, had the effect of keeping the bowels open. No alteration was made in her mode of living, which was abstemious. From the effects of a constant application of the dried skin of a hare, in cases of tumours and rheumatism, we are inclined to attribute its effects to an electrical or galvanic influence on the absorbent vessels of the parts. On rubbing the hairy surface with the hand, in the dark, small electric sparks are visible, and a peculiar crackling noise is evident. It is by this power that we are disposed to attribute the beneficial effects of the hare skin, in cases of scirrhus. For our first knowledge of this application, we are indebted to Thomas Cam, Esq. consulting surgeon to the Hereford Infirmary, a practitioner of superior skill and judgment. With Mr. Ramsden, late surgeon of Saint Bartholomew's Hospital, it was also a favourite remedy in cases of scirrhus affections of the mammary gland.

In the fourteenth volume of the French Journal of Medical Sciences, (lately published) Dr. Lasserre, of Domme, has related some cases of scirrhus tumours, which he succeeded in dispersing, by applying leeches to the part; a discutient plaister; an issue in the neighbourhood; and by keeping the patient *constantly* under the sensation of *keen* hunger.

AIR-PUMP VAPOUR BATH.—From the pen of Mr. La Beaume, to whose scientific researches into the nature of the galvanic fluid, and its operation on the animal machine, under a variety of diseases of debility, the public is greatly indebted; we have received a copy of a second edition of "Observations on the Properties of the Air-Pump Vapour Bath, in the Cure of Gout, Rheumatism, and Palsy." In the Biographical Sketch of Dr. Myers, which appears in our present number, we have noticed the good effects the topical application of warm vapour to the gouty inflammation, produced on himself. The almost instantaneous alleviation of pain, and termination of the paroxysm, we attribute to the soothing and invigorating operation of the warm vapour on the irritated nerves, enabling nature to accomplish her object. Hence, its use is followed by an improvement of the general health, and an increased strength of the extremities. In rheumatism, its beneficial operation is often equally speedy and effectual. Of its effects on paralytic limbs,

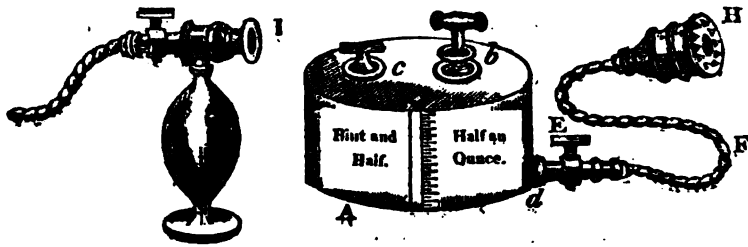
we cannot speak from experience. In *local* palsy, it is doubtless a very plausible remedy; but in palsy, the sequel of apoplexy, the use of such a remedy is contra-indicated by the nature of the exciting cause. For this species of palsy, which is the most common, it is not recommended by Mr. La Beaume,—indeed we must do Mr. La Beaume the justice to say, that neither in this remedy, nor in galvanism, does he trust to its topical effects. Like a skilful physician, whose anxious wish is to cure his patients, he takes into consideration the state of the general health and the peculiarities of the constitutions of his patients; and it is in such hands *only*, that such powerful topical remedies can be employed with safety and effect. Mr. La Beaume's work is written both for medical and non-medical readers. The numerous facts which he adduces in favour of the air-pump vapour bath, render the work highly interesting to the members of the profession; and to those who are subject to the diseases, for the cure of which the application is applicable, we recommend a serious perusal of it.

HAIRY TUMOUR.—In the last number of the *American Medical Repository*, a case of tumour, of the size of a pigeon's egg, appears, which was extirpated by Dr. Henkel, from about half an inch above the right eye-brow. On dividing the cyst, he found it to contain nothing but hair. About twelve years ago we removed a tumour from the upper lid of the right eye of a gentleman of Lincoln, (Mr. Marris, a solicitor,) of about the size of a small bean, which was filled with hair. This tumour we opened in the presence of the gentleman and his father, Dr. Marris, late of Winterton in Lincolnshire.—Tumours of this kind, in the neighbourhood of the eye-brow, are by no means so rare as the Editors of the *Medical Repository* suppose them to be.

HYDROPHOBIA.—Dr. Mease, of New-York, has published some observations and reflections on this disease, the object of which is to prove the *total inefficacy* of the preventive treatment of an application of caustic to the bitten part. After the mass of evidence which is on record on this point, it is astonishing to us that Surgeons of the present day should torture their patients with caustic, under the idea of rendering the virus inert. Mr. Gilman, of this metropolis, in a prize essay on hydrophobia, has given a scientific explanation of the cause of the failure of the most powerful caustic to the wound. When a caustic is applied, a saponaceous compound is formed, by the union of the caustic and flesh; but we are not on that account to suppose that the virus is decomposed or rendered inert. It is true the absorbents of the wounded part are destroyed, but the canine virus may extend with the caustic, and is more likely to be taken up by the irritated absorbents of the ulcerated surface with which the eschar continues in contact, till nature has thrown it off. Mr. G. narrates several recent cases, in which the most potent caustics were applied to the bitten parts in a severe manner, immediately after the wound was inflicted, without preventing hydrophobia. These cases alone, one would suppose, would be sufficient to satisfy any practitioner, that the treatment, is cruelly torturing the patient without a prospect of benefit.

The only effectual means of prevention is the complete excision of the wounded part, with as little delay as possible.

CUPPING, &c.—Mr. Machell, an ingenious surgeon of London, has lately invented an instrument to facilitate the operation of cupping, and to unload the breasts of milk, &c., which has met with the approbation of several eminent surgeons.—Of this apparatus the following is a representation.



“The body of the apparatus, A, is of an oval form, having two orifices on the top, *b* and *c*. Into *b* is screwed an exhausting syringe or pump, and into *c* a screw-plug, for the purpose of opening and closing that orifice.

“At one end of the body of the apparatus is fitted a stop-cock, E, to which is attached the flexible pipe, F; at the extremity of which, the different apparatus for cupping or drawing milk, as hereafter described, is to be affixed.

“In order to perform the operation of dry-cupping, the glass, H, is to be screwed to the end of the flexible pipe, F; and an exhaustion must be made in the body of the instrument, by making about thirty strokes of the pump, and by applying the mouth of the glass, H, to that part of the body of the patient to be operated upon; and, by turning the stop-cock more or less, the skin will be raised as much as is required; and the glass may be instantaneously removed, by unscrewing the plug, C, and letting in the air.

“For the purpose of cupping, scarifying, and abstracting blood, at one operation, connected with the extremity of the flexible tube passing from the exhausting-box, is a glass or metal bell, resembling, in great measure, the common syringe cupping glass, into which is adjusted a simple piece of mechanism, whereby a plate, on which is fixed the lancet-points, after puncturing the elevated integuments, is disengaged from a catch, by pressure of the soft parts rising into the partially-exhausted vessel, on the button of a delicate spring, by the previous adjustment of which, the extent of the punctures or incisions may be very accurately regulated.

“The lancet bell, after exhausting, by about forty strokes of the piston, the body of the apparatus is applied to the part from which it is intended to draw blood; and, by turning the stop-cock in the connecting tube, communication is made betwixt the two vessels; the integuments rise into the bell, press against, and are wounded by, the lancets or prickers, disengaged at an accurately-determined

moment, and the blood is drawn from the orifices into the exhausted receiver. A cock in the exhausting-box, by admitting at any time the excluded atmosphere, removes the pressure, and liberates the apparatus.

"The transparent crystal, which is let into the side of the exhausting-box, admits of a clear view of the blood, or other fluid, flowing into the instrument. By the side of the crystal, and upon the exhausting-box, is a scale; the division of which begins at half an-ounce, and, in the ordinary-sized apparatus, is continued to the degree of a pint and a-half; the precise quantity of blood can thereby be measured with much accuracy.

"The important advantages gained in the use of this apparatus,—of facility, precision, simplicity, neatness,—are incalculably surpassed by the power of its application to any part whatever of the surface, under any circumstances indicating its propriety, and by any person untrained to the manual dexterity of a professed cupper; and even without inspection of the part to which it is applied,—a circumstance frequently of much importance in female patients! The bone, or its periosteum, covered only by extenuated integument, can never be injured: the skin and its vessels simply are divided, and that to any nicely-determined object, and into any desired point. There is no alarming preparation, no harrassing change of apparatus, no exposure. Cleanliness, decency, and the quiet and mental tranquillity of the patient, are in no way infringed upon.

"The delicate covering of the hydrocephalic infant's cranium may be depleted without danger, without alarm, without trouble or delay.

"In drawing the breasts, about four strokes of the pump will in general be found sufficient; and the nipple-glass, 1, being screwed upon the end of the flexible pipe, the mouth of the glass must be applied to the breast; when the suction may be regulated according to the feelings of the party using the apparatus, by merely turning the handle of the stop-cock more or less; and, in order to remove the glass from the breast without difficulty, it is only necessary to unscrew the plug, when it will become detached.

"The annoying, and often in their consequences seriously injurious, difficulties of abstracting milk from the imperfectly-developed nipple of young mothers, are too familiar to the practitioner in the department of midwifery, to need, in this place, more than simple mention. The inadequate and clumsy contrivance hitherto employed, gives place to the convenience, the precision, and the sufficiency, of this almost self-acting apparatus.

"The delicate or exhausted female has but to apply the nipple-glass, without being disturbed even from a recumbent position, and regulate, simply by turning the stop-cock, the draught on her breast to the extent which her own feelings dictate as sufficient. The breast which, from ulcerated or excoriated nipple, cannot be emptied of its fluid by suction of the infant, but with almost insufferable agony to the mother, can, by this contrivance, be drawn without pain, and without the perpetual renewed irritation to the ulcerated part, which is the exclusive impediment to the process of healing.

"By the adoption of a glass receiver to the neck of the nipple-cap, and which is detached or affixed by a screw-neck, the milk is received uncontaminated, and appropriable to the nutrition of the infant.

"*Great Russell Street, St. James's; Nov. 20, 1819.*"

EPILEPSY.—A London physician desires us to state that he has succeeded in curing two epileptic patients, by the following treatment, which he was led to adopt in consequence of reading Mr. Mansford's scientific Treatise on Epilepsy, and our remarks on it. After emptying the bowels by the basilic powder, he ordered a pill composed of two grains of genuine Cayenne pepper, and conserve of hips, to be taken twice a day (about two hours before, and four hours after, dinner. The course of the spine to be rubbed every morning and evening with the following liniment :

Take of pure water of ammonia, half an ounce ;

Olive oil, one ounce ;

Oil of turpentine, three drachms.—Mix.

Cold water was applied to the head every morning by means of a gardener's watering pot, and the feet were kept warm by the use of soft thick flannel socks. The patients adopted the use of the herb tea recommended in a former number for breakfast, avoided fermented liquors at dinner, and took for supper gruel. This mode of treatment, the doctor is of opinion, answers the same purpose as the galvanic operation recommended by Mr. Mansford; viz. of unloading the brain of nervous fluid by increasing the conducting powers of the spinal marrow, &c., and producing a determination of nervous fluid to the bowels and extremities. The application of cold water to the head, allays the morbid excitement of the brain, which in cases of epilepsy is of great importance. The galvanic apparatus recommended by Mr. Mansford, he found very difficult to manage.

GRAVEL.—A gentleman of Liverpool desires us to insert in the present number, the following receipt for gravel, from which he says he has derived more benefit than from any other remedy. He adds, that he is of a gouty habit, and that the lemon acid recommended to him by a chemical physician in London, evidently increased the malady, and disturbed his general health.

Take of the Essential Oil of Spruce, one scruple ;

Spirit of Nitric Ether, one ounce ;

Mix.—A tea-spoonful to be taken two or three times a day, in a tea-cupful of the decoction of marshmallow root.

CANCER.—Mr. Carmichael, of Dublin, continues to employ the phosphate and oxyphosphate of iron, externally and internally, in cases of open cancer, and spreading ill-conditioned ulcers, with the same fortunate results which he has noticed in the Essay on Cancer. At St. George's Hospital, the oxyphosphate of iron is a favourite external application for indolent and cancerous ulcers. To the next edition of his Essay, we understand, Mr Carmichael intends to add many cases of cancer of the breast, and of the disease termed *noli me tangere*, in which the ferruginous remedies completely succeeded.

THE HUMANE SOCIETY.—We are happy to find that the remarks which appeared in a late number of our work on the utility or inutility of this charity, has induced some of the governors to investigate the concerns of the Institution. The facts that have already transpired, have suspended its *vital* operations, and threaten its total extinction. Their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of Kent and Sussex, have been so disgusted with certain proceedings, that they have withdrawn their patronage, in a manner that was not very pleasing to the treasurers, and Mr. Pettigrew has resigned the office of secretary. Should the society die, the country at large will have little reason to go into deep mourning. From this source, neither the public nor medicine has, in our opinion, derived any benefit. The rules which they industriously circulated throughout the country to be adopted in cases of suspended animation, were very unscientific, and more likely to extinguish the “vital spark” than to give it activity. By inflating the intestines with the vapour of tobacco, and rubbing the body with ether, a practice much recommended by this *humane* body, the life of a man in health may be suspended; What then must be its effects when the vital functions are at a stand? These directions, which were so artfully puffed off by some designing men, have, no doubt, done much mischief. As to the rewards they hold out, to encourage medical men and others to render prompt assistance, and to persevere in the mode of treatment they recommend; is it to be supposed that any person even gave them a thought on seeing a fellow-creature in a state that required prompt assistance?—Englishmen in such cases require no stimulus to induce them to do their duty. The intrinsic value of the medallion, on which so many poetical lines have been published, the late treasurer represented to be worth five guineas—the value of the silver is twenty shillings, and being cast in a mould, the workmanship could not exceed half that sum; so, if it be charged to the society at the rate of five guineas, to whom does this immense profit go?

Useless as this society has been, one would really suppose, from the puffing paragraphs of it which so often appear in the daily papers, that it is the most important charity in the country; every paragraph, we are told, brought grist to the mill; and from the charitable disposition of the opulent in this country, there is no doubt of their *urgent* appeals to their humanity having proved productive. For this charity, which above all others has been denominated the “*humane*,” even charity sermons have been preached annually throughout the country; and the clergy seemed to have vied with each other in their efforts to increase its funds.

GROANING, CRYING, &c.—A French surgeon has published a long dissertation on the beneficial influence of groaning and crying on the nervous system. He contends that groaning and crying are the two grand operations by which nature allays anguish; and that he has uniformly observed that those patients who give way to their natural feelings, more speedily recover from accidents and operations, than those who, suppose that it is unworthy a man to betray such symptoms of cowardice as either to

groan or to cry. He is always pleased by the crying and violent roaring of a patient during the time he is undergoing a severe surgical operation, because he is satisfied that he will thereby soothe his nervous system as to prevent fever and ensure a favourable termination. From the benefit hysterical and other nervous patients derive from crying or groaning, he supposes that "by these processes of nature," the superabundant nervous power is exhausted, and that the nervous system is in consequence rendered calm, and even the circulation of the blood greatly diminished. He relates a case of a man who by means of crying and bawling, reduced his pulse from 120 to 60, in the course of two hours. That some patients often have a great satisfaction in groaning, and that hysterical patients often experience great relief from crying, are facts which no person will deny. As to restless hypochondriacal subjects, or those who are never happy but when they are under some course of medical or dietetic treatment, the French surgeon assures them that they cannot do better than groan all night and cry all day. By following this rule, and observing an abstemious diet, a person will effectually escape disease, and may prolong life to an incredible extent.

TAPE WORM.—We have received from surgeons in Bristol, Birmingham, Chepstow, and Liverpool, very favourable reports of the beneficial effects of the oil of turpentine in speedily expelling this animal from the human body.—For this disease the oil of turpentine may be considered a specific.

SUICIDE, &c.—Surgeon Caton, who for many years has been most laudably engaged in diffusing a knowledge of a certain class of disease, with the view of putting the unthinking victims, and particularly youth, on their guard against the specious promises of a set of mercenary and unprincipled pretenders, has lately published a treatise on nervous complaints and the crime of suicide.

On tracing the characters of the unfortunate individuals who have terminated their existence by self-destruction, the author observes, "It will be found they possessed many remarkable traits of individuality, combined with peculiarity of sentiment, strength of genius, vigour of application, brilliant originality, and every requisite necessary for a character of heroic greatness. In fact, it is from the splendid, luxuriant materials of this amalgamation, when fostered by a refined education, that induces me to believe that in them reside the first elements of that contrariety of character, with which human nature so luxuriantly abounds; and if fortunately bent, produce the moralist, the statesman, the poet, and the warrior. On the other hand, if the turbulent tide of life flows loud with feculent matter, it gives a sombre cast to all the incidents of life, renders every accidental result an object of serious disquietude, and destroys the confidence of future hope with a predilection of its futility. What is ardently desired at one moment excites disgust at the next, opposing with the proudest disdain whatever boon is granted; and thus the imagination is in perpetual pursuit of new objects, without fixing it upon any, reverting to the periods of the past, or anticipating the views of the future, life is absorbed in

an impatience, better felt than described. From this contrariety of character, and its opposite results, I would virtually infer, that in the order of the universe, suicide is preconceived but not pre-ordained; and this doctrine I maintain without any infraction of moral or natural law, arming and sheltering that doctrine under the jurisdiction of that principle of moral agency which liberally and correctly recognises man, the slave of contingencies, the child of accident. Even Milton admits of something like fatality in his *Paradise Lost*:—

Whose fault!

Whose but his own! Ingrate, he had of me
All he could have; I made him just and right,
Sufficient to have stood, though free to fall.

BOOK III.

"I here mean that fatality that is purely physical, and yet predestined fatality is spoken of as if it was a mere non-entity, a flash without a bolt; but those who regard with attention the varied events that chequer human actions, and have the liberality to confess they cannot penetrate through the clouds of time, foreknow the hour when death on his pale horse shall come, or foresee hereafter; must acknowledge that at some period they have felt its energy, and admitted, while yet its glowing influence was upon them, its governing and invincible action. Take, for instance, the Jews, a people celebrated in all ages and all countries, a people whose intercourse is extended over every civilized state, in fact celebrated for singularity of character, habit and sentiment, they at once form a striking and extended example of the effect of that secret influence we term fatalism. Deeply impressed with the idea that it is decreed, that the productions of the soil and labour of one generation shall be destroyed by the succeeding one, their feelings become subservient to it; and hence, in all their family concerns, these predestined, exiled, expatriated people are extremely solicitous, as far as human foresight can go, to weaken and oppose the realization of this fixed and dreaded fatality by every means in their power; but which, in derision of every effort, continues its turbulent course. Here we see the mind not acting as a mere *cerebral secretion*, but as a sentient, reflecting principle, governing by immutable laws the action of the individual. In fact, every man is born with a certain constitution of body and mind, says Priestley, independent of his own choice. The circumstances in which he is born, with respect to country, parents, education, and advantages or disadvantages of all kinds, are likewise altogether independent of himself. It is no matter when you say that his first volition takes place, for you must admit it is an uncertain, definite circumstance independent of himself. His determinations, therefore, being by the hypothesis certain or definite in these circumstances, whatever it be, it brings him into other but definite circumstances, whether foreseen or unforeseen by himself depends upon his judgment or sagacity. In these new circumstances he makes another definite choice or determination, concerning the new objects that are now before him; and

this new determination brings him into other new circumstances : and thus his whole life passes in a constant succession of circumstances and determinations, all inseparably connected till you come to the last determination of all, immediately preceding the extinction of all his power by death. Plato says, the Being who presides over the whole, has disposed and complicated all things for the *happiness* of the whole, every part of which, according to the extent of its influence, does, and suffers what is fit and proper. One of these parts is yours, O unhappy man, which, though in itself most inconsiderable and minute, yet being connected with the universe, ever seeks to co-operate with that supreme order. You, in the mean time, are *ignorant of the very end* for which all particular natures are brought into existence, that the all-comprehending nature of the whole may be perfect and happy; existing as it does, not for your sake, but the cause and reason of your existence, which, as in the symmetry of every artificial work, must of necessity concur with the general design of the artist, and be subservient to the whole of which it is a part. Your complaint is therefore ignorant and groundless against the wisdom of Divine Providence, since, according to the various energy of creation, and the common laws of nature, there is a constant provision of that which is best at the same time for you and for the whole. For the governing intelligence, clearly beholding all the actions of animated and self-moving creatures, and that mixture of good and evil diversifies them, considered first of all by what disposition of things, and by what situation of each individual in the general system, vice might be depressed and subdued, and virtue made secure of victory and happiness, with the greatest facility and in the highest degree possible. In this manner he ordered, through the entire circle of being, the internal constitution of every mind, where should be its station in the universal fabric, and through what variety of circumstances it should proceed in the whole tenor of its existence. He also maintains a state of retribution, as well for those who, by the exercise of good dispositions, being harmonized and assimilated unto the divine virtue, are consequently removed to a place of unblemished sanctity and happiness; as of those who, by their flagitious arts, have risen from contemptible beginnings to the greatest affluence and power, and whom you therefore look upon as unanswerable instances of negligence in the all-wise disposer of events, because you are ignorant of the purposes to which they are subservient, and in what manner they contribute to that supreme intention of good to the whole."

The author's remarks on hypochondriacal, hysterical, and other nervous complaints, are creditable to his head and heart.

TEA.—Mr. James Millar, of Grove Cottage, Lisson Green, has lately addressed the following letter to Mr. Tilloch, on the colouring matter of a manufactured *China* tea.

SIR,—The regular establishments for the manufactory of imitation tea-leaves arrested not long ago the attention of the public; and the parties by whom these manufactories were conducted, together with numerous vendors of the factitious tea, did not escape

the hand of justice. The fraud of manufacturing sloe and white-thorn leaves into an imitation of tea, which has been drunk by the public as the genuine beverage of tea, is comparatively harmless, when compared with the fraud lately detected of manufacturing real genuine unsaleable tea-dust into tea, by means of a process which renders the article absolutely deleterious to health. In proof of this statement, you will have the goodness to lay before the public, through the medium of your Magazine, the following facts.

"A poor woman having purchased an ounce of green tea, was struck by the lively blue colour which the beverage made of it assumed, on pouring into it a tea-spoonful of spirit of hartshorn. This person (a char-woman) being in the habit of frequently partaking of tea in other houses where she went to work, and being constantly in the habit of adding a tea-spoonful of hartshorn to the tea-beverage, without having observed that singular appearance which her own tea-leaves produced, made a complaint to the grocer from whose shop the tea was purchased. This person, unconscious of any deleterious admixture, having paid a fair price for his commodity, took a sample of the suspected tea-leaves to Mr. Accum the chemist, who analysed it, and pronounced it to contain copper. So unexpected a result induced the vender of the poisonous tea-leaves, whose whole support depended on the rectitude of a fair tradesman, to inquire into the fraud committed upon him. He consulted some of his friends who received their tea from the same quarter, and it became evident that the deceptions practised in this diabolical branch of commerce were greater than was by him expected. The poisonous tea had all the appearance of the leaves of genuine Hyson; but it was noticed by the chemist who examined the suspected samples, that a portion of the leaves when infused in boiling water became speedily resolved into a fine powder, and that part of this alone remained in an entire state, so as to make it possible to recognise the vegetable structure; and this led to the opinion that the manufacturer of the poisonous commodity had employed the dust of the leaves of Hyson tea, [the sale of which forms a regular business with many tea brokers], and moulded it, probably by means of a small quantity of mucilage, into a compound possessing in every respect the external characters of genuine Hyson tea. This fraud may therefore be detected by merely throwing the sophisticated tea-leaves into warm water, which instantly causes them to fall into a fine powder, which speedily settles to the bottom of the vessel. The infusion, when mingled with liquid ammonia, affords a bright blueish green colour, indicating the presence of copper. But the presence of this metal may be more strikingly rendered obvious, by mixing two parts of the suspected tea-leaves with one of nitrate of potash (saltpetre), and throwing the mixture into a crucible kept red hot in a common fire. The whole of the vegetable matter of the tea will thus become destroyed, and the copper remain behind in combination with the alkali of the saltpetre. If water therefore be poured into the crucible to dissolve the mass, the presence of copper will be incontrovertibly rendered obvious, by the admixture

of liquid ammonia, which imparts to the fluid a beautiful sapphire blue colour.—I am, with respect, Sir, your humble servant,

"Grove Cottage, Lisson Green,

"JAMES MILLAR."

"Sept. 22, 1819."

"P. S.—Mr. Accum, in his Report, remarks that the copper employed for colouring tea is in the state of a carbonate, and not as verdigris, which he states totally inapplicable for its fraudulent purpose of giving a bloom to the tea-leaves. I need not remind your readers, that all preparations of copper are deadly poisons.—J. M."

In consequence of Mr. Accum's Report, we have subjected different sorts of Hyson tea to chemical examination, but hitherto without any result indicating the presence of copper. We shall, however, extend our examination to teas obtained from different venders, and report the results in our next number. By the addition of the sloe and white-thorn leaves to tea, the revenue may certainly be defrauded; but that the tea was, in some respects, rendered more wholesome by the addition, is a fact no medical man will deny. For our own part, we give a preference to the former, because we know that the tea imported from China is poisonous, and we agree with Dr. Jones, who attributes the frequency of indigestion, in this country, to the use of tea. Mr. Millar's assertion, that "preparations of copper are deadly poisons," when taken to a certain extent, is true; but even to produce the slightest nausea, a person must take more of the "carbonate" of copper than Mr. Accum could collect from a pound of tea. Carbonate of copper is a valuable tonic medicine; and, therefore, the small quantity that the *char-woman* took, could not possibly disturb her stomach. We advise Mr. Accum to ascertain the quantity of prussic acid, an ounce of Hyson, or any other tea, contains, and how much of each sort a person in health may take with impunity.

RYMER'S CARDIAC TINCTURE.—The account we have given of this "famous nostrum," in our 42d Number, has excited the indignation of the worthy proprietor, to such a degree, that nothing less than prosecution of the writer "of the scandalous libel," will satisfy him. His *professional* character, he contends, has suffered by the exposition we have made; and on this point the rays of the luminous mind of his counsel, who has pronounced the article a libel, are to be concentrated. As his attorneys have served us with the first process, we are in hopes that Mr. Rymer is in earnest. We are most desirous that this nostrum trade should be fairly brought before the public by a *pro* and *con* discussion, although it be by the gentlemen of *robes* and *wigs*, instead of those of *canes* and *wigs*, who are most competent to judge of its merits.

In our animadversions on nostrums, we have studiously avoided personalities. Even in our biographical sketches of living Physicians, it is the state of medicine we are desirous to expose: for the private characters of many of the individuals, whose theories we have condemned, we have the highest respect. Much mischief to our art, and to society at large, has been done by a too scrupulous regard for the reputation of the members of the profession. "To err is

human," particularly applies to medicine, from the imperfect state of the art. Tenderness towards mistaken practitioners of education, and coolness, is a duty. Where indeed is the practitioner who has not committed some error in judgment? But some have a most unfortunate habit of error, which has been often connected with that of neglect or hurry. Before this work was instituted, through a dastardly dread of chastisement in some shape or another, medical impostors were allowed, as a late writer observes, "to walk about with their heads erect, to the prejudice of the profession, and the great injury of society." It is very far from our wish to shorten the bounds of liberality, which should subsist among properly educated members of the profession; but we cannot discover any reason why a man's wilful errors, either arising from ignorance or culpable neglect, in matters of such vital importance, should not be exposed, and his conduct as freely censured, as that of any other delinquent. The public cannot be judges of the qualifications of medical men; and hence the physician of pleasant manners, with a good share of what has been aptly termed "insinuating or medical impudence," will succeed in establishing an imposing character. In the profession of the law, where the basis of procedure is fixed, ultimate success may be a fair criterion of merit; but this is very far from being a test by which medical men can be judged. The same may be said of a nostrum; by dint of puffing advertisements, a medicine that possesses no merit whatever may be brought into notice. Many a brilliant fortune has been made by unprincipled men, by this system of imposture, at an expence of what, to an honest man, would be far dearer than riches,—namely, the fair discharge of one's duty, for the real benefit of the afflicted.

It is the nefarious practice of designing men, and the injurious effects of their nostrums on the credulous public, we are desirous to expose: and to write coolly on a traffic which has been productive of such serious misery, a man must be totally dead to all sense of duty. "But," says the learned Counsel, "the cardiac tincture is the *discovery* of a professional man, and *in itself* a valuable medicine for the disorders for which it is recommended." If the proprietor has had a *medical* education, he should have known that the diseases for the cure of which his nostrum is highly extolled *by himself*, arise from opposite causes, and are attended with opposite states of the system. Indigestion, and its consequences, are the effects of *increased* excitement, and also of *diminished* excitement, of the stomach; and if it be good for one kind, it must be bad for the other. Many of the diseases for which it is recommended are symptoms of inflammation of the stomach; now in this disease, the effects of spirit of wine, impregnated with an essential stimulating oil, and other stimulants, must be dreadful; and we repeat, that if the unfortunate patient should persist in its use, the consequences must be fatal. Now if Mr. Rymer has had a proper professional education, he should have clearly pointed out the species of the diseases, to the cure of which it is adapted. He should have known, that in the hands of ignorance it is capable of doing much serious mischief. Indeed, in a

case of a disordered stomach, the consequence of congestion of the blood-vessels of the brain, such a stimulus applied to the stomach, by increasing the impetus of blood to the brain, would most likely produce fatal apoplexy: we were therefore correct in stating that it might, under certain circumstances, produce sudden death. If the proprietor of the nostrum be professionally educated, the directions which accompany the bottle are disgraceful to him; and the manner in which he speaks of his nostrum, clearly points out his views.

The principal object of this work is to expose nefarious practices, and to diffuse useful information, in doing which we have the public good only in view. In condemning Mr. Rymer's nostrum, we are actuated by no interested motive, nor by any unfriendly feelings towards him. If we have committed an error, we should have gladly corrected it on its being pointed out to us by Mr. Rymer, and to have made any reparation in our power. Mr. Rymer may be, as his agent says, "a very good kind of man in his way;" but his nostrum is certainly a bad kind of medicine in its way. We rejoice much in the prospect of an opportunity to justify our statement. We will prove that it is founded on facts; and, if exposure of such facts is a libel, then we shall cheerfully submit to the verdict, and save ourselves the trouble of exposing fraudulent practices, the protection of which, by law, must throw an odium on the country.

We are told that Mr. Rymer intends to dwell chiefly on his character as a surgeon, and that he will declare, in that character, and not as a vender or proprietor of a medicine. As a "surgeon," we know nothing of his character. It is an old saying, that "a good workman may be known by the quantity of chips." This is no criterion by which we can judge of the abilities of a surgeon; for, as the late Mr. John Hunter says, cutting and slashing is not creditable to the character of a surgeon. A man may be a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and yet not a surgeon. We sometime since saw a patient with a fracture of the patella, two days after the accident, who was lying on his side, with the knee bent. This position of body and limb, the surgeon told us, he adopted to relax the muscles of the leg, and thereby to prevent inflammation. This man was a member of the College, and, by his neighbours, was considered a very able surgeon. Would any surgeon say, that such a man was entitled to the denomination of surgeon? The only means Mr. Rymer has given us to form an opinion of his professional abilities as a surgeon, is his dissertation on the properties of his medicine, which accompanies each bottle. A more foolish production, or a more dangerous paper to put into the hands of patients ignorant of medicine, we seldom meet with. But, to speak of its merits, as a test of the medical abilities of Mr. Rymer, and of the properties of his medicine, &c., we shall subpoena the Presidents of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, and many other eminent practitioners, so that the trial will not be totally destitute of interest. The address of the Lord Chief Justice to the jury will be also highly interesting.

SELECT ADVERTISEMENTS.

* * * The Subscribers to the MONTHLY GAZETTE OF HEALTH are respectfully informed that the Proprietors have made an addition to the Work, for the purpose of inserting Advertisements of New Publications and Discoveries which the Editors deem worthy of notice, without subjecting them to any additional expence. Each number will, as heretofore, consist of Two Sheets, exclusive of the Sheet devoted to Advertisements.—The paper is not only much larger than that on which the other periodical publications are printed, but the work is more closely printed, the pages being as long and wide as the paper will allow, to admit of its being bound; so that it contains as much matter as the other periodical Medical Works which are sold at *nearly three times the price.*

EGYPTIAN HALL, PICCADILLY, Nov. 26, 1819.

MR. BULLOCK has the honour of informing the NOBILITY, GENTRY, and PUBLIC, that, encouraged by the success of his late undertaking to sell in person the various and valuable contents of his *Museum of Natural History, and the Fine Arts*, he has commenced the general business of an AUCTIONER, and for that purpose fitted up the EGYPTIAN HALL (late the London Museum), Piccadilly, in a style of great elegance. This extensive edifice now contains by far the largest and most convenient suite of Apartments for general Trade in the Metropolis, and presents a mart for either public or private sale on a scale which has not heretofore existed. The premises contain upwards of sixteen hundred feet in length of wall, the whole of which is laid out and arranged for the dis-

play of articles on sale in a manner the best suited for the mutual interests of the buyer and seller. The great Apartment, lately occupied by the Museum, is fitted up in a style of corresponding Architecture with the exterior of the building, and is probably the finest Egyptian Chamber in existence; it is sixty feet in length, by forty feet in height. This splendid Apartment will be solely devoted for the Exhibition of Natural History, Works of Art, &c. on Private Sale, which will be arranged in the most suitable manner for public inspection.

The situation of the Egyptian Hall, in the centre of the court end of town, and of all the fashionable Promenades, has already given this building greater notoriety and attraction than perhaps any other in the metropolis, and the best arrange-

ments will be made to conduct the business on a scale in the highest degree liberal and respectable.

Mr. BULLOCK's constant habits of business in his long connexion, during the formation of his late Museum, with the most celebrated scientific characters and collectors of articles of rarity and curiosity all over Europe, will, it is presumed, present an advantage in the highest degree beneficial to the proprietors of works of science and art, who may be disposed to offer them for sale at his new establishment. No personal exertion on the part of the Proprietor shall be wanting to fulfil the wishes of those who may honour him with their confidence and commands.

The situation and extent of the Premises, and their universal adaptation for general trade of every description, must be obvious to the Public. There cannot be a finer or more established Mart for the disposal either by Private Contract or Public Auction of Pictures, Marbles, Drawings, Books, and Engravings, Cameos, Subjects of Natural History and Antiquity, rare Works in Ivory, Japan, &c. &c. China, Cabi-

net Work and Furniture of every description; in short, every article of either ornament or use, for which any demand can be created.

The Commission on Articles sold by Private Contract is £10. per cent. and at the rate of £2½. per cent. per ann. on all articles not sold, to be estimated on the Proprietor's prices, and to be settled previous to the redelivery of the property.

Property of the foregoing description, sold by Auction, is subject to a Commission of £7½ per cent. (which includes the Sale Expenses of Advertising, printing Catalogues, &c.), and to £2½. per cent. on the amount bought in, Books and Natural History excepted, which are subject to £10. per cent. commission on the amount sold, when the sale of such property does not amount to £1000.

The regular Sales commence on the 7th of December, and continue the whole season.

Rooms occasionally to be Let for the Exhibition of Works of Art, or other Public Purposes.

Patents and new Inventions received for Exhibition.

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Do. 12 ounces.....	7s. 6d. each
Do. 16 ounces	9s. each
Do. 16 ounces, with Brass Stop Cock	and Pipes, and Self-using Tubes,
	15s.
Ditto, complete in Mahogany Box,	22s.

Single Truss.....10s. each
 Double Ditto20s. each
 Suspending Bolts, Cotton Bag, 4s. 6d.
 each
 Ditto Silk Bag.....6s. 6d. each
 Home's improved curved flexible
 Bougie2s. 6d. each
 Superior Black Wax Bougies 2s. 6d.
 a doz.
 Ditto coloured Do.3s. do.
 Caustic Ditto.....9s. do.
 Catgut Ditto.....9s. do.
 Mudge's Inhaler and Tube, 10s. 6d.
 each
 Ivory Nipple Shields3s. each
 Box Wood Ditto1s. each
 Pewter and Glass Ditto 1s. 6d. each
 Prepared Teats.....2s. 6d. the pair
 Breast Pump and Glass, in Maho-
 gany Box20s.

Scarificators38s. each
 Cupping Apparatus, with Air Pump
 and Scarificator, in Mahogany
 Box80s.
 Cupping Glasses1s. 6d. each
 Bleeding Lancets.....2s. each
 Gum Ditto.....3s. each
 Seton Needles3s. each
 Curved Needles3s. a doz.
 Splints of every description
 Tourniquets
 Pewter and Bone Syringes of all
 Sizes and Sorts
 Also Instruments, and every Arti-
 cle that can be required for Medical
 or Surgical purposes.
 N. B. Orders from the Country or
 abroad, accompanied by an Address
 for Payment in London, will be in-
 stantly executed.

ABDOMINAL BANDAGES.

BAKER AND SON,

Respectfully beg leave to acquaint
 the Nobility and Gentry, and Mem-
 bers of the Medical Profession, that
 their Male and Female ABDOMINAL
 BANDAGES are only to be obtained
 at their Warehouse, No. 24, Bed-
 ford-street, Covent Garden.

They have the pleasure to say, that
 the invention, which has lately been
 much improved, according to the
 kind suggestion of several Medical

Gentlemen, is now recommended by
 the most eminent Members of the Fa-
 culty, both in England and France ;
 and those Ladies and Gentlemen who
 have adopted them, speak in the
 highest terms of commendation of
 the comforts they afford, and the
 essential advantages they have re-
 ceived from them in cases of weak-
 ness of the Stomach, Relaxation of
 the Bowels and of the Back.

RUPTURES.

SALMON, ODY, & Co. 292,
 Strand, most respectfully inform the
 Public, that their PATENT SELF-
 ADJUSTING TRUSSES continue
 to be recommended by all the most
 eminent Surgeons in Town and
 Country. The springs are so con-
 structed as to admit of increase or
 decrease in size and force ; will an-

swer for right or left side, without
 the least inconvenience to the wearer,
 requiring no under-strap, or other
 galling bandage.

The Patentees have the honour to
 supply the Army and Navy, the
 Naval and Military Hospitals, the
 Dock-yards and Ordnance, the Ma-
 rine Infirmary, the Honourable East

India Company, the City of London Truss Society, the Mary-le-Bone, Wiveliscombe, Bristol, and Denbigh Infirmarys, the Middlesex Hospital, &c. &c. &c.

Manufactory, 292, Strand, London; et à la Galerie du Palais Royal, No. 163, à Paris.

N.B. Persons residing in the country, sending the circumference of the

body across the hips, may depend upon being accurately fitted.

Sold by Butler and Sons, No. 34, Sackville-street, Dublin; and one or more Druggists in every principal Town in England.

A full description, and mode of application of the above, is given in Dr. Reece's last edition of his Medical Guide.

LOWNESS OF SPIRITS.

CAMPHOR LOZENGES, for Lowness of Spirits, &c.—These Lozenges are highly approved and confidently recommended for lowness of spirits, in inflammatory and febrile affections, and increased irritability of the nervous system; in the sick and nervous head-ache they will afford immediate relief: they are also an admirable preventive

against infection, and the effects of damp weather, and in all cases where the Camphor Julep is advised, these Camphorated Lozenges, are taken with superior advantage. They are prepared and sold by J. Shepherd, at his Warehouse for the True Ipecacuanha Lozenges, 176, Fleet-street, London, in bottles, 2s. 6d., 4s. 6d., and 10s. each.

FAMILY MEDICINES.

J. SANGER,

Of 150, Oxford Street (opposite Bond Street),

Finds it necessary to acquaint the Public, that he and Mr. HARRIS, the Corner of St. Paul's Church Yard, are the only Agents that are appointed in London for the sale of the Bengal Antibilious Aperient, and Stomachic Pills. The former are retailed at 3s. 6d. a box, and the latter at 4s. 6d. a box, with full directions for their use. On taking six boxes for charitable purposes, a considerable allowance will be made.

J. SANGER is also agent for the sale of the Cajeput Opodeldoc, for Chilblains, Rheumatism, and Stiff-

ness of the Joints, 2s. 9d. and 4s. 6d. a bottle.

The Lettuce Lozenge, made by the directions of Professor Duncan of Edinburgh, for Cough, Consumption, &c. 2s. 6d. a box.

Mr. Want's Remedy for Gout and Rheumatism.

Dr. Wilson's Tincture for Gout and Rheumatism, 4s. 6d. a bottle.

Perry's Essence for Tooth-ache, 1s. 6d. a bottle.

Robinson's Animal Rasp, for removing Corns and thickened Skin, price 1s. to 2s.

BLANK LABELS.

6s. 6d. a Box,

Containing 1,000 of the usual and double size, or four boxes of ditto for £1. The universal encourage-

ment these Labels have received from Medical Gentlemen of extensive practice, with whom the saving of time is

so great an object, has led to the complete perfection to which they are brought. Though ready folded and embossed, they are much cheaper than persons can make them for themselves, because the demand causes the annual consumption of several hundred reams of paper, which is consequently excellent, and charged with no retail profit; whilst a plan of cutting them diagonally, or one out of the other, pays by a saving of

the material for the manufacture, which is also effected by machinery. —Sold by J. Callow, Medical Bookseller, Princes-street, Soho; H. Burtenshaw, 132, St. Martin's-lane; J. Woodham, 34, High Holborn; B. Tabart, 39, New Bond-street, Stationers; and at Apothecaries' Hall. Medical Gentlemen in the country remitting £1, post paid, will have 22s. worth returned carriage free.

FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES.

A CASE of the CONCENTRATED ESSENCES of CELERY, Onions, Garlic, Shalots, Mint, Parsley, Thyme, Cayenne, &c. &c. for flavouring all kinds of Soups; peculiarly adapted for the use of Captains of Ships, and of indispensable necessity in all Foreign Countries where these valuable ingredients are unattainable.

These Essences give a most exquisite flavour to Soups of every description, and are used by Cooks of the first celebrity. When the soup is ready to be served up, a small quantity of the Essence most agreeable to the palate should be added *the last thing*, and the cover of the tureen be immediately put on to prevent the volatile parts from evaporating. Each stopper should be kept closed, by which the pungency of the flavour will be preserved in all climates; and thus, in a small compass, every family may possess a combination of ingredients for giving an agreeable zest to one of the most useful requisites of the table.

LEMON SPICE POWDER.

This new-invented POWDER consists of some of the choicest Spices, and is combined in such proportions, as not only to prevent the necessity of keeping a various assortment, but is always ready for immediate use, without the trouble of grating. It is a most valuable auxiliary to the Cook and Confectioner; and, indeed, a culinary requisite that no Housewife should ever be without. It gives an exquisite flavour to all kinds of Puddings, Pies, and Jellies; and is peculiarly gratifying to the palate of the Invalid in Gruel, Oatmeal, Rice, Sago, Arrow Root, and Tapioca; it also gives a delicious zest to Minced Veal, Hashes, Soups, and Broths; it is used by adding one teaspoonful, more or less, according to the taste; and if kept dry and well corked, will preserve its qualities for any length of time in all climates.

Prepared and sold by Joseph Ker-
not, Chemist and Druggist, Bear-
street, Leicester-square, London.

SELF-ADJUSTING DRAWERS.

These DRAWERS, invented by Mr. TAITE, of Oxford-Street, are particularly recommended to the Attention of Gentlemen who are in the Habit of Hunting or taking much Exercise. As a Preventive of Rupture they are particularly recommended.

Mr. TAITE has great satisfaction in stating that his new Patent Braces, for supporting the Small Clothes, are acknowledged to be more pleasant to wear, and more effectual in their Object than any other Invention of the Sort, and also much cheaper. No. 228, Oxford-Street.

LOST, NOT STOLEN,

The FUNDS of the HUMANE SOCIETY. Whoever may find the same, will, on taking them to the Treasurers, in *Amen* Corner, be rewarded with a new Medal of the value of Five Guineas, and receive the cordial thanks of the Go-

vernors. It is supposed that they were lost somewhere or somehow between the Tallow Market and the Royal College of Surgeons. The amount is not accurately known, but it is supposed to be immense.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editors advise Mr. Everson to give the treatment recommended for Epilepsy in the present Number a trial, in the case of his son. The alterative Pills noticed in his Letter may be continued. The Editors will be obliged by his communicating to them the result.

Mr. Luke Wood is advised to give his daughter every night the following powder, for the course of one week. Take of Prepared Calomel, 7 grains; Compound Powder of Tragacanth, half a drachm. Mix and divide into seven equal parts; and two table spoonfuls of the following mixture twice a day, *i. e.* two hours before and three hours after dinner. Take of Carbonate of Soda, two drachms; Infusion of Cascarilla Bark, seven ounces. Mix. Friction over the bowels, by means of a warm hand, every night and morning, will be proper. He will do right also to adopt the abdominal bandage, invented by Messrs. Baker and Son, of Bedford-street, Covent Garden. Fermented liquors should be avoided. She may be allowed to take two meals of meat daily. Horse exercise, when the weather will admit of it, will materially promote the salutary operation of the medicines. The Carbonate of Soda may be distinguished from the Sub-Carbonate, from its being dry, and easily reduced to a dry powder; whereas the Sub-Carbonate is in large crystals, somewhat resembling Glauber's Salt, and when powdered is very moist.

"A Well-wisher and Subscriber," will find the Receipt for making the Plaster of quicksilver and the ammoniac gum, in *Reece's* translation of the last edition of the *London Pharmacopœia*, under the name of "Plaster, ammoniac with quicksilver." The following form the Editors have found to answer best:—

Take of ammoniac gum (the red-drop) half an ounce, with as little water as possible, reduce it into a smooth pulp; then add, of extract of hemlock, half an ounce; and of the strong mercurial ointment three drachms. For the cure of recent chilblains and for its prevention, this plaster is infallible. It does not require to be changed oftener than once a week. It should be spread on soft leather.

Mrs. F. will find her Case particularly noticed in the "Supplement to the 33d. No. of this Work."

To the query of J. S., respecting the Lock Dispensary, the Editors are promised a reply for their next Number.

A. B. is referred to the 32d page of the Appendix. He will do right to read the introduction with attention.

Mrs. F. of Liverpool, is no doubt correct in terming the case of her husband *mania*. She will act improperly if she does not immediately put him under restraint.

The Editors acquaint their much-esteemed Correspondent at Gloucester, that they have not received any mineral water from him

THE PROGRAMME

The *Spelling of New York* would have been in print at the Washington Fair.

The *Editorial* of H. P. of *Constitution* is dated 1888. It is a long and interesting account of the discussion of the Washington Fair.

The *Editorial* of the *Spelling of New York* is dated 1888. It is a long and interesting account of the discussion of the Washington Fair.

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FACTITIOUS AIRS.

MIL. PAYNE,

PNEUMATIC CHEMIST.

NO. 170, NEW BOND STREET.

(Between Row. 165 and 171, Street facing from Chancery Lane.)

Best known to state that he continues the Manufacture of all the Medical Aers, used for the Respiration and Phlogisticated Heating, and for Philosophical purposes; and that he has prepared Apparatus for these applications, accurately gauged, and furnished with the Glass at their own Houses, agreeable to the Prescriptions of the Medical Attendants; which are kept in constant readiness for sending out, at the shortest notice, on moderate Terms.

JUST PUBLISHED

THE *KEITH'S* Catalogue, enlarged and revised, printed in

CATALOGUE OF DRUGS.

(IN ENGLISH.)

Specifying the Properties, Doses to Children and Adults, the proper Vehicles for their Use, the Diseases for which they are employed, and Retail Prices, in which are inserted a Description of the different Moulds and Chemical Test Glass, with a representation of their Contents, as adapted to different Medicines and Uses, viz. the Family, Continental, Tropical, Military, and the Maritime Cases; the payable Glass of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Uses, with an Account of each Medicine, and are necessary to be kept in Families residing in the Country.

By J. KEITH, Esq. of London. The Second Edition, 1791.
11, 12, Strand.

Printed by J. B. Smith, at the Sign of the Three Crowns, in Pall Mall.

—LONDON: Printed by J. B. Smith, at the Sign of the Three Crowns, in Pall Mall.

TO CORRESPONDENTS

The Editors return their thanks to A. J. P. for several interesting and original Meditations, the composition of which were published in their last Number, with his remarks on the number of 1811.

Some, on referring to the 10th page (last February's issue) find that the Editors have misread Mr. Lynch's note. They are sorry that the remedy does not possess even the quality of not being recommended, for the sake of which it is recommended.

The request of 'that good Physician' and 'that good man' (the Editors) will find the information in question in the next Number.

'As all Subscriber' as Liverpool is not known.

'L. C.' will find the Editors here, and the Editors will find the Editors here, under the name of 'L. C.' in the next Number.

A continuation of 'Medical Examination' in the next Number. 'Medical Correspondence' between Mr. L. C. and Mr. L. C. will appear in the next.

'L. C.' Correspondence will be published in the next Number.

(Advertisement.)

J. SANGER,

Of 1, 21, Oxford Street, (W.) opposite Royal Exchange.

It being necessary to augment the Public, men in and Mr. GUNTER, 180, Strand, at St. Paul's Church Yard, are the only Agents that are appointed to London for the sale of the *Hospital Southdown Apartment and Shrouds*, &c. The former are sold at 10. 00. a Box, and the latter at 16. 00. a Box, with full directions for their use. Any orders for these for Clergy or purposes of benevolence will be made.

J. SANGER is also Agent for the sale of the *Exempt Opium*, for *Chloroform*, *Chloroform*, and *Wholesale* at the same 10. 00. and 16. 00. a Box.

The *Exempt Opium* made by the *Doctors of Professor GUNTER*, of *Edinburgh*, for *Chloroform*, *Chloroform*, &c. 10. 00. a Box.

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ABDOMINAL BANDAGES.

BANDER AND SON

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The *Exempt Opium* made by the *Doctors of Professor GUNTER*, of *Edinburgh*, for *Chloroform*, *Chloroform*, &c. 10. 00. a Box, and *Wholesale* at the same 10. 00. and 16. 00. a Box.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editors recommended "Nathaniel" in *about* the Year, *meant* they have recommended to their Appendix to the 32d Number for disavow of the Predicate "Blind." They are not necessary, from his statement of the case in the 1st, 2d, or 3d Number.

With the request of "An Old Slaveholder" the Editors will comply in their next Number.

To the question of "A Reader" at Massachusetts, the Editors reply in, that they consider the work in which he alludes, an empirical production.

When the Editors are in want of matter to fill up a Number they may insert the lines on Blue Pill.

"D. F." is advised to consult the Appendix to the 31st Number; and if the advice there given should not prove beneficial, the Editors request he will direct them with his address, as the subject is, of too importance to require to be given in these regular Numbers.

"Seneca," and "S. F. Y." will find the information they solicit in the present Number.

"A. R." will find the information and answers to the correspondence to the 32d Number, in which the various questions of readers are fully noticed. If the treatment which is recommended should not succeed, the Editors will most willingly give her any further advice, on her requesting it with her address.

The requests of our friends at Bristol, Longfield, New-England, and Worcester will meet with early attention.

The valuable reports on the different species of "Bloodletting," "Hospital Surgeon" were not received in time to appear in the present Number.

The Correspondence of Mr. Fairbank, with a person, and the positions of Mr. French, an advertiser of a "cure for the cure" of the present Number.

M. of Leicester, is recommended to give his (long) paper to the Editors of an early Number to read, and to apply to the Editors of the Boston or Colonial Observer, also recommended to a paper of "Bloodletting" and "Hospital Surgeon" will find some valuable practical remarks on "Bloodletting" in an Hospital Surgeon.

"P. Y." Correspondent: In this Week we will give you the Editors' Note on the Editors.

PATENT BRACKS.

T. TAPP

Black and white Patent Bracks are made by T. Tapp, and are sold by the Patent Brack Company, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL

ABDOMINAL BANDAGES. BAKER AND SON

Especially the best of support to Abdominal Bands and Belts, and Members of the Medical Profession. Our new Made to Order ABDOMINAL BANDAGES are now made at our Workshop, No. 21, Portland Street, Strand, London.

They have the pleasure to say, that the numerous orders they have much enjoyed supplying to the kind suggestions of several Medical Practitioners, as well as to the orders of the most eminent Abdominal Bands, have been of the highest quality, and their Tastes and Knowledge of the human body, speak in the highest terms of commendation, as the work has been so often, and the excellent materials used, as well as the care taken in the making of the bands, and of the work.

W. James's Filtering Machines

OF KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE.

THESE MACHINES ARE THE ONLY MACHINES OF THE KIND IN THE WORLD, AND ARE THE ONLY MACHINES OF THE KIND IN THE WORLD.

Capacity of Machines		Price	
No.	Capacity	Per Day	Per Week
1	100 Gallons	10	70
2	200 Gallons	20	140
3	300 Gallons	30	210
4	400 Gallons	40	280
5	500 Gallons	50	350
6	600 Gallons	60	420
7	700 Gallons	70	490
8	800 Gallons	80	560
9	900 Gallons	90	630
10	1000 Gallons	100	700

These Machines are the only ones of the kind in the world, and are the only ones of the kind in the world.

FILTRING MACHINES. These machines are the only ones of the kind in the world, and are the only ones of the kind in the world. They are the only ones of the kind in the world, and are the only ones of the kind in the world.

FACTITIOUS AIRS. MR. PAIN.

THESE MACHINES ARE THE ONLY MACHINES OF THE KIND IN THE WORLD, AND ARE THE ONLY MACHINES OF THE KIND IN THE WORLD.

These machines are the only ones of the kind in the world, and are the only ones of the kind in the world. They are the only ones of the kind in the world, and are the only ones of the kind in the world.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The *Continental Contributions* of "A. W. D." (Vol. IV.) is now published. His Receipts for mailing the *Continental Contributions* show the Editors bound on a determination of the matter, was not only real, but was however, increased, that it is a true and honest work.

The subjects of an "Old Subscriber," in this issue, will point with some attention. The death of the Patient, reported by the Editor at a moment of the time he was afflicted with an injury to the eye, he attributed to the effect of heat. The Editors were unable to find this Old Subscriber to inform them how long the Patient had been subject to the disease, and if he had experienced any unusual symptoms before his death. The female's treatment, that was given, we suspect, is the prescribed sulphur of potassium, from which the trouble is given the article a trial in the case of the patient, he will find the result to be the same.

A further account of the Brighton Medical Association is given next Number.

"An old Subscriber," at Lowell, in answer to the Editors' Honey, in the lukewarm water, in the preparation of the medicine to be put, and to make use of the honey (the mixture is applied) every night and morning. He says that he has seen, with a Lintiment, four grains of the Blue Pill—It will also be given to apply a Blister behind the affected Ear, and to keep the discharge by means of the Ejector. Further directions for the treatment of the patient will be given in the next Number.

To the Editor of a "Constant Reader," in relation to the Editors will pay early attention.

The Editors cannot account for the failure of "A. W. D." to send us any other proof, than the last proof, of the medicine he prepared. He will take the trouble to give the composition of the trial with the preparations prepared at the Chemist and Druggist, and find, possibly, they have no health in the matter, but the result will be satisfactory.

Mr. Phipps's Prescription for weakness with *Continental Contributions* are intended for each Number.

"W. A." should have known that it is a misapprehension of the Editors and not made by the Editor of copies and edited by him. From his treatment appearing from, they do not understand that they have been not obtained from him, they cannot expect to make the subject independent between him and his work.

Mr. Wright's Letter on the very interesting subject, as well as paid by the Committee in the Journal for the last Number, will be found in the next Number, and the Editors of the *Continental Contributions*, will be glad to receive any suggestions for improvement in the next Number.

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THE LONDON LANCET, LONDON.

These machines are used for filtering water from the tap, and are used for filtering water.

Machine	Capacity	Price	Weight
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MR. WARDEN

Having taken notice of the many, however, of the many, I have been led up to the following Apparatus, in the construction of which, I have been assisted by some of my countrymen, and I would be anxious to have, and improve it.

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Medical Association, and I have been led up to the following Apparatus, in the construction of which, I have been assisted by some of my countrymen, and I would be anxious to have, and improve it.

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This Day is published in Sub. price 10s.—D. 14 1/2
**PRACTICAL ILLUSTRATIONS OF TYPHOUS
 FEVER,** of the Common Communicable, and of Contagious
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* This Edition contains a new Treatise, with numerous new plates, by permission
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 them, speak in the highest terms of commendation. They are
 now they obtain, and the excellent advantages they have obtained
 from them, at a very low price, of the Medical Profession, and
 the Ladies and the Faculty.

N^o 45, To September 1, 1819.

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THE MONTHLY
Gazette of Health,
OR,
Popular Medical, Dietetic,
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PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL,

EDITED BY

DR. RICHARD REECE, OF LONDON.

And by several eminent Physicians in America, the East Indies, and on the Continent.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Of Dr. John Richard Farre.....	241
On Galvanism, by Professor Aldini.....	244
Remarks on Professor Aldini's Galvanic Apparatus, by M. La Beaume.....	247
On Sulphurous Fumigation, by Dr. Hart.....	250
Reply to Chemists on Deafness, by W. Wright, Esq.	252
On the Treatment of Cholera Morbus, by Dr. Vaughan.....	253
Case of Sciatika cured by Galvanism.....	254
On Epilepsy, by Mr. Mansford.....	256
On Mineral Waters, by Dr. Mackenzie.....	260
Cases of Small Pox subsequent to Cow Pox, by Surgeon Gairdner.....	261
Case of Fatal Termination of Cow Pox.....	261
Means of Preserving Meat, &c.	262
On St. Vitus's Dance, by Dr. Watts.....	263
On Suspended Animation, by Dr. Steens.....	264
On Fomentation in Local Inflammation.....	264
Edema of Larynx.....	265
On the Prussian Acid.....	265
Case of Abscess of the Liver.....	265
On the Female Abdominal Bandages.....	266
On Magenta.....	266
Dirty Larders.....	267
Means of Keeping off Flies.....	267
Means of Destroying Flies.....	267
Medical Contributions.....	268
On Mr. Lye's Treatment of Stricture.....	268
On Mr. Thompson's Chyloleum Salts.....	268
Composition of Jackson's Hepatic Pills.....	270
Report of Diseases.....	271

LONDON.—Published at the Chemical and Medical Hall, 171, Fleet-street; and sold by Sherwood and Co. Water-poor Row; Neely, 78, Lombard Street; and all Booksellers in Town and Country.

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J. D. B. Co. Printers,
2, Duncannon, Southampton.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"A. T." is advised to apply volatile camphorated liniment to the scalp every night—to make use of the compound powder of amara-bacca, as directed in the 5th Number—to keep the feet warm by wearing flannel socks, and to attend to the general health, for which he will find instructions in the 5th and 6th Numbers. The affection of the head is no doubt rheumatic.

The Editors advise "a Subscriber at Gloucester" to examine the supposed worms with a microscope: they have heard of such animals as dental worms, but they never saw one. On examining the substances he discovered in the water, he will probably find them to be part of the henbane seeds he employed in the fomentation. This is an old imposition. If he will favour the Editors with a small portion of the medicine and two quarts of the mineral water to which he alludes, they will give an analysis of them in an early Number. With respect to the nature of contagious vapour, they have no doubt that the nitrous gas renders it inert by a chemical action. That it is of an alkaline nature is not improbable.

The Editors suspect that the sufferings of "A. C." are produced by a calculus in the bladder: they therefore advise him to have the bladder examined by a skilful surgeon, and to acquaint them with his opinion.

The symptoms noticed by "R. P. h. s." strongly indicate the existence of a polypus. The Editors recommend an inspection of the part by an experienced surgeon, which he will find in Leicester.

"A Constant Reader" at Newington is advised to rub a little of the following ointment over the diseased part every night and morning, and to defend it from friction by the application of the ointment on lint.

Take of Camphorated white Ceruse Ointment, 1 ounce;

Prepared Calomel, 1 drachm.—Mix well together.

The substance the Editors received from "W. G." is diseased bope. They advise him to continue the mixture, but to abandon for some time the use of calomel. The case is no doubt syphilitic.

"J. S." cannot do better than apply to the affected parts every night, a liniment composed of two drachms of the citric ceruse, and six drachms of olive oil, and to take the artificial Harrogate water, recommended in an early number. The Editors did not observe till within two days of the publication of this number, that he requested an answer by post. All letters addressed to the Editors, soliciting advice, are put aside till within a day or two of the publication of the number.

"J. B." is informed, that it is the intention of the Editors to give the substance of the Lectures more fully, to explain the outlines of the new system. To queries respecting Ropy Beer, they send a hint to answer, having always ordered it to be thrown away. If the article be not very weak, it may be converted into vinegar.

To "Formosa," the Editors recommend the saturated tincture of Echinacea, two tea-spoonful of which taken twice or thrice a day, in a weak glass of the decoction of marshmallow root, will probably restore her to health in a short time.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

An "Old Subscriber's" request will be attended to in the next Number.

Many letters addressed to the Editors having been destroyed by mistake, they hope if any subscriber should not find an answer to his questions, they will not hesitate to make another application, to which they will reply immediately by post.

The following communications have been received:—

Remarks on the proceedings of a Court Martial on Mr. Lindsay—on super-irritative indigestion—a trip to Ramsgate, for which, with the following favours, the Editors hope to find room in their next number:—Expeditions means of exciting salivation—medical excursion on the Continent—ditto visit to Norwich, &c.—Remarks on the use of iron coffins, &c.—the Deptford apothecary, or the London water-doctor in confusion—medical consultation over the unfortunate Orang Outang—effects of tar in cases of tic doloieux—medical prescriptions—surgical remarks on 'Squire Brodie's book on diseases of the joints, &c.

* * Communications to this Work, and Letters of Consultation, are to be addressed to the Editors, No. 171, Piccadilly.

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N^o 46, To October 1, 1819.

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CONTENTS.

PAGE

Biographical Sketch of Sir Gilbert Blane, Bart. M. D. &c.	273
On Professor Aldini's Galvanic Apparatus, by Dr. De Sanctis.....	277
Cases of Deafness cured by Galvanism, by M. La Beaume	279
On Plague	283
Expeditions Means of exciting Salivation	285
Medical Excursion on the Continent	286
Case of Lock Jaw cured.....	289
Remarks on the Origin of Worms	290
Ditto on Mind and Matter.....	291
Preservation of Meat	292
The Case of Surgeon Lindsay	294
Sir William Adams's Ophthalmic Drops	296
Irregular Empiricism	<i>ibid</i>
Scirrhous Tumours, Remedy for	298
Treatment of Wounded Arteries	<i>ibid</i>
Case of Illic Passion successfully Treated	299
Mode of Preventing Chilblains	<i>ibid</i>
Effects of Ground Ivy on the Nervous System	300
On the Preservation of the Teeth, by Professor Horiz	<i>ibid</i>
Means of ascertaining the State of the Lungs	302
Means of Preserving Dead Game.....	303
On Tea.....	<i>ibid</i>
Case of Stone in the Bladder.....	<i>ibid</i>
Report of Diseases	340

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2, Broad Street, London.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The favours of Dr. James Lindsay, of A. C. & of L. B. are received. The communication of the latter gentleman cannot be inserted, unless he complies with the request of the editors, to acquaint them with his name, and place of residence.

As the case of gout, sent to the editors by "L. B." of Oxford, has resisted the usual remedies, and the medicines prescribed by Dr. Bourne, and other eminent physicians, residing in Oxford, the editors advise him to give Mr. Want's remedy a trial, which he may obtain at No. 1, Clarendon Square, Somers Town. If he attends to this advice, the editors will be obliged by his acquainting them with the result. The medicine is perfectly safe, and unquestionably entitled to a trial, Mr. Want being a regular surgeon, of deserved eminence.

The case of "R. B." of Liverpool, is indeed, as he states, "a most melancholy one," but in imagination only, for if he can muster resolution to divert his mind from it, and attend to the state of the bowels, his nervous system will become tranquil, and he will soon find himself in possession of that "great blessing which he has in vain sought for, from the medical men of Liverpool." His case is hypochondriasis, attended with an occurrence to which all young men are liable, and which only disturbs the mind of weak and nervous subjects.

"Mrs. J. A.," of Bristol, is advised "to indulge her inclination, to take the saturated tincture of cubebs," than which the editors do not know a better remedy for fluor albus, attended with debility of the stomach, and swelling of the legs.

The editors advise "J. M.," to take, twice a day, two tea-spoonful of an equal quantity of the tincture of cascarrilla, and saturated tincture of cubebs, in a wine-glassful of water, and five grains of the blue pill every night for a week. The drops may be continued for a fortnight longer, when the editors wish to be acquainted with their effects. If the bowels are not sufficiently relieved every day, he may take a tea-spoonful of the Epsom salt (dissolved in half a pint of water) every morning. For instructions respecting diet, they refer him to the fifth and sixth numbers.

The queries of "H. W." "J. S. T." "R. I." "Jane T." and "R. S." will be answered by post, in a few days after the publication of the present Number; the subjects being of a nature that will not admit of being noticed even on the Wrapper of this Work. If "A Subscriber," at Gloucester, will take the trouble to examine the supposed worms through a microscope, he will find that they are part of the seeds which are employed to fumigate the affected teeth. This the editors have done. The composition of the Herb Tea, they will give in their next number, agreeably to his request. To destroy fleas and bugs, a correspondent recommends the bedstead, and the floor under the bed, to be washed with tar water. For this purpose rue and raven (distributed between the blankets) are also recommended. They think it proper to inform him, that the philosophical curiosity of the person to whom he intrusted his preceding letter, ran so high, that he could not withstand his inclination, to acquaint himself with its contents, previous to his parting with it.

TO CORRESPONDENTS—continued.

The case of a Dispensary Patient under the care of Dr. Nuttall—Queries respecting the Lock Dispensary—Proofs of the Conscience of a consulting Surgeon—Queries by W. P.—Characteristic symptoms of super-irritative Indigestion—a Trip to Margate—a Visit to Norwich and Colechester—Remarks on Iron Coffee—Animal Galvanism—the Deptford Apothecary in Berner's Street, in disguise as a Water Doctor—Consultation over the Orang Outang—Effects of Tar—Prescriptions for Gleet, Indigestion, &c.—Dr. Clavasse, on the state of Medicine in England—Squire Oldwoman, an Squire Brodie's book,—Dr. Caton on Suicide,—&c., will meet with early attention.

The case of "J. P." and the unsuccessful treatment by Doctors Latham and Hooper, is too indelicate for insertion in this work.

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CONTENTS of No. XLVII.

	PAGE
Biographical Sketch of Doctor	
Maton	305
Remarks on Apoplexy	307
Ditto Galvanism.....	312
Ditto on Stone in the Bladder	313
Ditto on Cow Pox	315
Case of Watery Head cured ..	317
Ditto Hydrophobia	318
Ditto Obstinate Constipation ..	319
Medical Excursion continued ..	320
Cure of Dropsy.....	322
Effects of Oxygen	323
Remedy for Tumefaction of the	
Gland of the Breast.....	<i>ibid.</i>
On Cow Pox.....	324
Treatment of the Hysterical Fits,	325
Cases of Poisoning by Arsenic ..	327
On Topical Bleeding	330
On Inflammation of Veins	331
A New Gas-light Apparatus ..	<i>ibid.</i>
Effects of Peruvian Bark.....	<i>ibid.</i>
On the Fly in Turnips.....	332
Ditto Maple Tree.....	<i>ibid.</i>
Ditto Chestnut Tree	<i>ibid.</i>

Ditto Cleaning of Bottles.....	<i>ibid.</i>
On Water Cressets.....	<i>ibid.</i>
Composition of High Soots.....	<i>ibid.</i>
Falls	<i>ibid.</i>

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and Son.....	<i>ibid.</i>
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Stedman	<i>ibid.</i>
Of Family Medicines sold by	
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Account of Blank Labels	<i>ibid.</i>



1

